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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

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PARK COUNCIL

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, Calif. 94596.
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478
Artwork and Printing: Goldenberg, 1041 Ulfinian Way, Martinez, Calif., 94553

JAN 20 1970

VOL. 70, NO. 1 JANUARY 1970

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PARK COUNCIL TO MEET

Two open meetings of the Park Council are planned for this month. One will take place on Thursday, January 15, at 8:00 p.m. in the Recreation Center, next door to the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. The second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, at 8:00 p.m. in the Concord Public Library itself.

All Park Council members and other conservation-minded people are welcome. You are sure to find the meetings interesting and valuable. so let's see you there.

Briones Hike-In

A "hike-in" into threatened Briones Park will be held by the S.F. Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club on Sunday, January 25. The hike starts at 12:30 p.m. from the parking lot just inside the park entrance off Bear Creek Road north of Lafayette. (See map)

This may be one of the last opportunities to see this rugged park before it is severed by the "ribbons of steel" planned by PG&E. One of the real needs is to demonstrate the magnitude of public interest in this area. Several key public figures are expected to be present.

In addition to going on the hike at 12:30, you are invited to bring your lunch to the same spot at 11:30 for a picnic and informal presentation on the park features and power line controversy. The presentation and hike will be led by people thoroughly familiar with both aspects.

The Park Council is taking part in this activity. For further information contact: Kent Watson, 658-6800.

BOX CHANGED, ZIP ZAPPED

The Park Council's P.O. Box number and ZIP code have been changed. Please make a note of the new address, given above.

Briones Park Issue Comes Down To The Wire

(This item is adapted, with thanks from The Yodeler, Jan. 1970.)

After many months of hearings before the California Public Utilities Commission, the Briones power line controversy is drawing to a close. Final testimony has been presented by both sides, and a decision is expected sometime in February.

In the closing sessions the Sierra Club presented several key rebuttal witnesses. James P. Tryner, Chief of Resource Management & Protection, from the State Dept. of Parks & Recreation, re-emphasized its policy against the intrusion of transmission lines into State Parks. State Senator John Nejedly testified to the need for the PUC to consider environmental factors in addition to the cost factors of power line location.

The PUC has been presented with two possible alternatives by the Club. One is to place the line underground through Briones Park and reservoir and overhead elsewhere. The net cost increase for this underground proposal would be negligible as reflected on your electric bill. The other is an overhead line that passes to the north of the park and reservoir, then parallels other existing lines that already connect to the Sobrante Substation.

The overhead alternate costs about one-half the underground route. However, it merely shifts the lines out of the park and reservoir and onto private property. The Club has no desire to pass this problem onto private landowners, but it does feel that public areas have precedence over private property.

The implications of the mushrooming electrical demand over the years are well documented. It is questionable how many additional power lines can be built before there is no more room left, much less any environment.

The need and means exist for PG&E to advance their technology in this area. Their current attitude of ignoring the environmental effects of power lines cannot continue forever. If the tide is not turned at Briones we may have to stand and fight later when, for instance, bulldozers begin clearing a route for a transmission line across Mt. Tamalpais. The time for action is now. Sign the Briones petitions now circulating and attend the Briones Hike-in. Also, write to these public officials and make them aware of your interest:

Norman B. Livermore, Administrator

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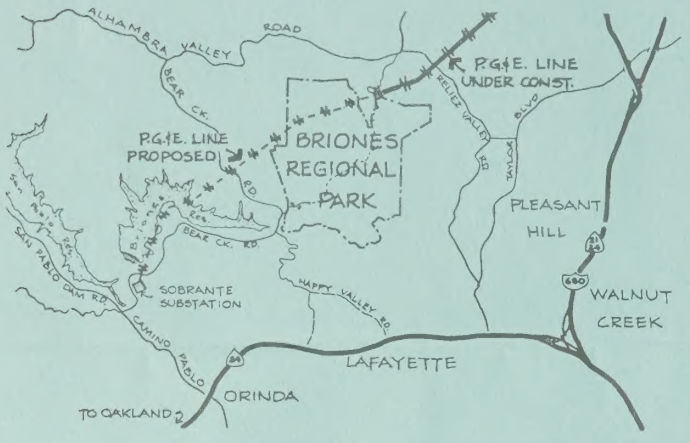
President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716

The State Resources Agency
Room 1311, Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 94814

Governor Ronald Reagan
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814



Your Chance To Save Las Trampas

Forested glades of ferns and wild flowers seen by few human eyes..windswept heights traversed by few human feet.....a beautiful "island in time" almost on your doorstep. This is Las Trampas Ridge, the scenic backdrop to the San Ramon Valley.

This description sounds like a real-estate ad, doesn't it? Well, Las Trampas is prime real-estate and will surely be engulfed by urban sprawl unless the public demonstrates a strong resolve to preserve this irreplaceable natural treasure.

At present, about 1,500 acres are safeguarded by EBRPD. The Park District has acquired that amount of land but has no funds to buy more. The County has asked the State of California to designate Interstate 680 as a State Scenic Highway. Such designation would offer the possibility of preserving Las Trampas as an attractive vista for motorists using 680, which runs through San Ramon Valley.

Unfortunately, many time-consuming steps are necessary to bring a scenic highway into being. And time is what we don't have.

The best immediate prospect of saving Las Trampas is Congressman Jerome Waldie's bill, HR8986, to establish a Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and adjoining Las Trampas National Park. The proposed legislation would secure virtually all of the magnificent ridge for public enjoyment.

The bill urgently needs your strong support; hence, the petition attached to this newsletter. Please sign the petition. Get your friends and neighbors to sign it, too. Fill it up, if possible. If you can't fill it, send it in anyway, as instructed on the petition.

Another valuable thing you might do for Las Trampas is join one of the hikes described in the next item.

Hike Into Las Trampas

The more you know Las Trampas Ridge, the more you love it. The more you love it, the more indignant you are at the prospect of its being defaced by a subdivision. And the greater your indignation, the greater is your resolve to fight for Las Trampas.

That's one good reason to hike into Las Trampas on one or all of the following occasion: February 15 - Danville to Star View acquisition, March 8 - Alamo to Las Trampas Peak, March 22 - Bollinger Canyon to Nordstrom acquisition, April 5 - San Damiano Retreat to Star View acquisition, April 19 - Danville to Star View acquisition.

Tell your friends and neighbors. Bring them along. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Safeway Store in Alamo, just off the Alamo exit of interstate 680 between Walnut Creek and Danville. Take your own lunch and beverage. In the event of rain, the hike will be canceled. For details, call D. Dimock (939-1289) or Manny Lindner (837-4444).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mondays, 12:00 noon	SEMINAR - "Ecology and Politics", Dr. Alan Steinbach and Al Levinson lead the discussion. 2510 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. Information: 652-8920.
Through January	EXHIBITION - "Art works related to separate life systems". Sam's Cafe, 1918 University, Berkeley.
Jan. 10 to Feb. 15	EXHIBITION - "The Pollution Show", A multi-media exhibition by a group of 40 well known Bay Area artists, a visual expression of their concern for man's destruction of his environment. The Oakland Museum. Information: 273-3407
Jan. 15	Park Council Meeting - (See news item.)
Jan. 17	KQED: "Geothermal Power" The geysers of Northern California and the eventual role of geothermal power in the ecology of our state.
Jan. 17	MORATORIUM - "Ban DDT Day". A citizen's action program against environmental pollution, sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Call 545-5735.
Jan. 18	FESTIVAL - "Earth Rebirth", a tree planting celebration of life. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at People's Park, Grove and Hearst, Berkeley, for processional march to the festival site. For further information, contact The Ecology Center, 548-2220.

Jan. 20 Hearing on Southern Crossing, Bridge State Building, Room 1194, San Francisco. 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 21 Park Council Meeting - (See news item.)

Jan. 21 KPFA: "The High Cost of Loneliness" continued in a series on the big city. 11:30 a.m.

"Are Man and Nature on a Collision Course" continued from Jan. 6. 2:00 p.m.

Jan. 25 Briones Hike-In. (See news item.)

Jan. 28 to 30 - SYMPOSIUM - "Pollution of Coastal and Estuarine Waters". University of California Extension, San Francisco. Information, 557-0448

Jan. 29 LECTURE - "Man and Environment". Ian McHarg, Livermore High School Auditorium, 600 Maple Street, Livermore, 8:00 p.m.

Jan. 30 EVENT - "Ecology Kaleidoscope". Films, songs and ideas to live by. 9:00 p.m. 1606 Bonita, Berkeley. 50¢, including refreshments. Cedar Branch Coffee House.

Feb. 15 PARK COUNCIL - HIKE - Danville to Star View acquisition, Las Trampas Regional Park. Meet 9:30 a.m. in Safeway parking lot, Alamo. (See news item.)

Feb. 18 PARK COUNCIL MEETING - Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, 8:00 p.m. All are welcome. (See news item.)

NEWS BRIEFS

--EBRPD approved extension of the lease agreement with the owners of Brooks Island (Bing Crosby, "Trader Vic" Bergeron, and others) until at least June 30. EBRPD does not have the funds at this time to begin a development program. Starting January 1, rental will be at the rate of $2,720 annually. The lessees provide a caretaker. They have also agreed to turn over a mobile home and floating dock to the Park District when they vacate the premises.

--EBRPD amended Park District Ordinance 38 to permit EBRPD Rangers to remove abandoned vehicles from park lands after the passage of 72 hours.

--In a new venture permitting horse grazing on park lands, EBRPD granted Jim Donaghy of Oakland a one-year lease on a 260-acre fenced parcel in Anthony Chabot Regional Park for that purpose at the rate of $6 an acre for the 100-acre grazeable portion. Donaghy envisions that youngsters can corral their mounts there and ride on both that property and other portions of the park. He must provide horse feed so that the area supports a continuous grass surface.

--By late January, EBRPD may be able to conclude negotiations with the Santa Fe Railway giving the go-ahead for a 55-acre Pt. Richmond Shoreline Park.

--The five-year old Pt. Pinole Shoreline park proposal has been revived and active discussions will get underway for a 49-year lease on 161 acres there. The proposed aquatic park adjoins Parchester Village, a community of 2500.

--EBRPD ratified an agreement whereby the $100,982 bath-house complex at Alameda Memorial State Beach, which was destroyed by an incendiary fire in October will be rebuilt without additional cost to EBRPD. Rebuilding will be completed by April 20.

--With purchase of a final 57.74-acre parcel of Garin Ranch land near Hayward, EBRPD will complete its acquisition of the half-million dollar, 473.54-acre park site.

--Lake Chabot marina is in line for new boat docks and a permanent aeration system to improve fishing conditions at the 319-acre lake between Hayward and Castro Valley. The new docks, with slips for 50 boats, will be located near the present snack stand area.

Because of successful performance of an aeration system designed to improve year-round trout fishing at Lake Chabot and installed on a trial basis earlier this year, EBRPD directors have okayed its purchase for $2,000. The system, called a Helixor, is designed to produce an even temperature from the surface to the bottom of the water and to increase oxygen content. Without a "turnover" of lake waters, a warm area forms on the surface for approximately eight months of the year creating a "dead" area below in which trout cannot survive.

--Travel and daily expenses of EBRPD directors and personnel incurred on District business will, from now on, be geared closely to actual costs, according to an EBRPD Board vote.

--Another step in the planning of Shadow Cliffs Aquatic Park near Pleasanton was taken with authorization for a topographical survey of the 144-acre site. EBRPD allocated $6,500 for the land and aerial survey to be done by Murray and McCormick, civil engineers, San Leandro.

Proposed plans for the $500,000 park were previewed at a public showing in Pleasanton last October. The park will be situated about two miles east of Pleasanton in the old Kaiser "South Pit" quarry, which is to be deeded to EBRPD by the Sand and Gra-

vel Division of Kaiser Industries. A federal grant of $250,000 for development of the park will be received by the District from the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Key feature of the site is a 74-acre lake of "crystal clarity."

Organic Garden Co-Op

Would you like a food garden in your yard? Ecology Action, Berkeley, will help you start and keep one. They offer their services (free) to anyone with land and the will to share in the work and distribution of crops. They need more helpers, tools, land, and seeds. Contact Ecology Action, 848-3388, Doug Cruea or Dave Hupp.

LaMont C. Cole, ecologist with the Division of Biological Sciences, Cornell University, has calculated that the amount of oxygen produced each year by photosynthesis within the 48 coterminous United States is more than 40% short of providing the oxygen required for combustion of the fossil fuels that are consumed by these states.

"The implication is clear", according to Dr. Cole. "We are absolutely dependent on oxygen which is produced outside our borders--mostly in the Pacific Ocean and brought in by atmospheric circulation. If we should inadvertently kill enough marine diatoms or the organisms they depend on for fixed nitrogen, we would start running out of oxygen to breathe."

A great danger seen by Dr. Cole is that tankers loaded with concentrated herbicides might be sunk in the Pacific. These weed-killers are being shipped in large quantities to kill rice and defoliate jungle vegetation in Vietnam. (From Modern Medicine.)

Homemakers Against Pollution has good advice to offer. This Stanford-based citizens group, led by Linda Fischman, recently published a set of guidelines for action to save the environment. Here they are:

1. To avoid sewage fatigue, use 100% biodegradable cleaning compounds.
2. To decrease refuse problems of solid wastes and to maximize conservation gains, use returnable containers; limit or avoid using canned items; give old newspapers to pulp and paper shredding industries; discourage junk and bulk mail.
3. To avoid food waste, plan meals and leftovers conservatively.
4. To prevent increased smog, drive your car less and bicycle more; share car rides or walk.
5. To prevent traffic congestion and auto pollution, use and encourage more public transportation.
6. To decrease pesticide and chemical pollution, buy, grow and/or ask your grocer for chemical-free vegetables and fruits. In addition, learn about pesticides and avoid usage of these harmful chemicals in and around your home.
7. To avoid population explosion, practice and educate others regarding birth control.
8. To teach youth, educate yourself about ecology.
9. Work and campaign for local, state, and federal regulations and standards regarding environment and conservation. Encourage our government to examine our priority of goals.
10. Look at personal goals and values in terms of the crisis and be willing to sacrifice for the good of mankind.

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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

VOL. 70, NO. 2 FEBRUARY 1970

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Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478
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THE SCENE:

EDITOR OPINES

Ecology, environment, pollution, open space... Until a few months ago, these terms were used only by a tiny band of conservationists: birdwatchers, backpackers, and similar "nuts". You had to search far and wide for conservation news items in the popular press. Nowadays, nearly everybody is talking ecology and the news media are bursting with environmental news.

That's why I've decided to editorialize in this issue of the newsletter, instead of merely reporting a few of the hundred items a week that cross my desk. I think it might be useful to give you a general picture of the local conservation scene as I see it. So, here goes...

Las Trampas Ridge is probably at its most beautiful about now. Many of its trees and bushes are putting out fresh leaves and new blossoms; wildflower season is beginning, and open spaces are green with lush grass.

Petitions supporting Congressman Jerome Waldie's Bill H.R. 8986 to preserve this scenic gem as a National Park are pouring in. Many more are needed. If you haven't already signed a petition, please lose no time in doing so. A petition form was included in last month's newsletter. You can get extras from Manny Lindner (837-4444) or D. Dimock (939-1289).

Garbage Recycling is coming into vogue as society's answer to the threat of submergence in a festering tide of waste materials. According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, eleven per cent of the nation's newsprint is recycled, saving the equivalent of 34,000 acres of trees. The percentage could be greatly increased.

In Contra Costa County, the Boy Scout movement organizes frequent pickup of old newspapers. The Scouts also have permanent facilities here and there for deposit of newspapers. In Danville, one is located at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 West El Pintado.

Reynolds Aluminum, Hayward, is reported as paying 1/2 cent each for used beer cans and soft drink cans of aluminum. Enterprising young people in Moraga have set up collection points for this valuable trash and are applying the proceeds to worthy causes.

If it proves feasible, we shall publish a guide to places where you can deposit stuff for recycling. Meanwhile, how about making inquiries yourself and letting me know what you find out?

P.G.&E.'s plan to string a high-voltage *power line across Briones Regional Park* on massive steel towers has run up against intense public opposition. The Sierra Club, the Park Council, and other organizations have deplored the proposed defacement of the beautiful park. So have Sen. John Nejedly and a host of private citizens. The Calif. P.U.C., having heard testimony for and against the power line, is expected to give its ruling this month.

The Park Council will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 8:00 p.m. at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord.

Everyone is welcome. Be sure to come along and bring your friends.

Air Pollution has become a burning issue (hackneyed pun intended) in the county. Outdoor burning of trash, leaves, and so forth was outlawed Jan. 1. This ban will reduce air pollution slightly. Further reductions may be effected by oil companies, now painfully aware that the 57 varieties of effluvia from a refinery can tarnish a corporate image as readily as paintwork on people's houses and tissues in people's lungs.

Polluter No. 1, however, remains the automobile, responsible for as much as 80% of the smog. Technical innovations may eventually result in smog-free cars. Meanwhile, public clamor against air pollution is growing into a roar.

More and more high-school students are taking part in anti-smog protests along the lines of the now-famous "Campolindo march". Students and faculty make their way to school on foot, bicycles, horseback, and various smog-free contraptions such as skateboards. Some protesters wear gas masks.

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President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716

Livermore Valley residents are urging local planners to restrict the rate of development as a means of combating smog, which is beginning to outdo L.A. in frequency and severity. Local officials are talking of suing San Francisco and certain East Bay cities for condoning the production of smog that drifts into the valley. Other recommendations include the establishment of bikeways so that people can make local journeys on smog-free bicycles.

The Trails picture looks bleak. On the face of it, trails should be among the easiest recreational facilities to provide. A strip of land only 10 feet wide can accommodate an adequate footpath and bikeway or a horse trail. Make the right of way a few feet wider and you have plenty of room for hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders.

Construction costs of trails are peanuts, compared to those of streets, highways, and parking lots. Local trails give children a safe route to school, soda fountain, or public library, at the same time providing adults with a convenient and pleasant opportunity for healthful exercise. Regional trails enable young and old to get from one community to another, or from their home to parks and open space, without risking death or crippling injuries from one of more than 100,000,000 motor vehicles.

Despite these undeniable benefits, the history of trail development in California is miserable. We have the John Muir Trail through the High Sierra: a superb route for backpackers. But that's about it, apart from a few miles here and there.

The California Hiking and Riding Trail consists of disjointed sections. Many miles of trail right-of-way have had to be given back, unused, to their generous donors because one or two property owners would not allow the trail to go through. And the State of California is expressly denied use of eminent domain to close the gaps.

This situation has been going on for years. It does seem odd that freeway builders have been able to sweep property rights aside whenever and wherever it suited them to do so, but trail builders have not. (EBRPD does have the power of eminent domain for trail acquisition, but is extremely reluctant to use it.)

Regional trails have fared little better than the California trail. The 500-mile, two-county trail network announced by EBRPD several years ago still exists only on paper, except for two short sections under construction. One is a 6-mile portion in Coyote Hills Regional Park; the other is a few miles of bridle path between Redwood Regional Park and Alamo.

If the present rate of construction continues, our generation and the next can forget about trails. There are, however, some grounds for optimism. Long distance trails are currently being established under the National Trails System Act. The first portion of such a trail in our area may soon be started. Recently enacted California legislation (Senate Bill 684) declares the public of the state to include the encouragement of "riding, hiking, and bicycling as influences for the improvement of the health and welfare of the people." To implement this policy, the state will set up and maintain a system of trails of its own, besides encouraging "by all means available" the development of trails by cities, counties, and recreational districts.

Encouraged by this national and state interest in trails, the Park Council has proposed construction of a hike-and-bike trail from Pleasanton, through Walnut Creek, to Martinez, and thence to Pinole, generally following the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The proposal was endorsed by the State of California Recreational Trails Advisory Committee, which recommended that the state establish the trail as a pilot project.

A proposed *park dedication ordinance* is still under consideration by the C.C. County Board of Supervisors. The ordinance would oblige developers either to dedicate some land in their subdivisions for use as parks, or to give the equivalent in funds to be applied to the acquisition and development of parks. A similar ordinance has already been adopted by several cities in the county, as well as by Alameda County.

Because of strong public support of the proposal, the prospects for its adoption look good. You could make it a near certainty by reminding your Supervisor that everyone but the homebuilders association wants the ordinance.

The curtain is about to rise on the last act of the great drama,

Bay Area Open Space - Now or Never.

Open space offers many benefits. It shapes development by stopping urban sprawl; thus, it saves the taxpayer an enormous amount of money by concentrating utilities into economical units instead of spreading them far and wide. Its plant life serves as a regional air conditioner. Its scenery and recreational values combine to enhance the quality of living.

If open space is such a wonderful thing for the public, why has so little been done to preserve enough of it? Why does the typical local government fall over itself in its haste to approve utterly wasteful land uses?

Zoning laws theoretically give local officials all the power they need to preserve open space; but zoning in this regard has usually proved a complete flop. The common explanation for the failure is pressure from land developers and speculators.

Hear what The Independent (Livermore Valley) says about that in a recent editorial. Commenting on a statement by two Pleasanton city officials that "city hall has commitments to developers which tie its hands in regard to growth control," the newspaper says, "This attitude admits, in effect, that local government's main function is to serve

developers; beyond that, in coping with the problems that affect the general public, city hall is helpless." The editorial continues, "We refuse to accept as a natural fact of life that city hall is helpless in fighting broad public problems. In our opinion, it is not really helplessness; it is apathy. Indeed, local government could stir up many strong waves. It simply needs a hard push from the public." Amen!

Anyway, to get back to the drama, the last act is opening with a proposal for 1970 legislation setting up a Bay Area Open Space Commission. This authority, modeled after the highly successful BCDC, would be empowered:

1) To inventory, analyze, and ascertain the public interest in the Bay Area's existing and potential system of regional open space...

2) To report on the regional economic and ecological effects of the loss of prime agricultural lands, coastal marshes, and other open spaces as a result of continuing, uncontrolled urban sprawl...

3) To report on the possible population "carrying capacity" of the Bay Area, following studies of existing regional policies which foster unlimited growth...

4) To exercise the authority--during the two-year temporary study period--of granting or denying development permits within the territory indicated on the 1969 ABAG Regional Open Space Plan...

5) To prepare an enforceable Regional Open Space Plan for the Bay Area, which designates the open lands to be permanently protected and which presents the financial and governmental recommendations necessary to implement the Plan.

The prospects for an effective open space program are brightening. We have an extraordinary manifestation of public concern for the environment. Governor Reagan has pledged his administration's efforts to winning the environmental battle. President Nixon, in his January state-of-the-union message, promised energetic action to safeguard open space--action that would include the use of novel methods of financing its acquisition.

When the moment arrives to push for open space legislation, push--push hard, because it's now or never.

CONFERENCE

The Park Council is sponsoring an all day conference Saturday, May 16, to explore what is happening to our environment and what to do about it. Details later, but mark your calendar now.

PARK COUNCIL OUTINGS

How about enjoying an outing with the Park Council? We are sponsoring a series of pleasant hikes to which everyone is invited, young and old. You will see endangered beauty spots and potential park areas. Bring lunch. Call Tom Crittenden (689-8773) for further information.

1. Sunday, Feb. 15 Las Trampas
   Meet 9:30 a.m., Safeway Store, Alamo
2. Sunday, March 1 Canyon
   Meet 10:00 a.m., Moraga Post Office
3. Sunday, March 8 Las Trampas
   Meet 9:30 a.m., Safeway Store, Alamo
4. Sunday, March 15 Nortonville Coal Mines; Meet 10:00 a.m., Ygnacio Valley Road and Clayton Road

Later hikes will be announced next month.

EBRPD Seeks Legislation

Three items of proposed legislation affecting the Park District are being discussed with legislators from Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

One calls for further amendment of the Williamson Act--State Open Space legislation --and the Revenue and Taxation Code to allow the Park District "to accept development rights to certain private lands" in return for which the property owner would be given a measure of tax relief. Presently, cities and counties may accept open space easements in exchange for such consideration.

Another proposal would permit EBRPD to share in federal highway funds disbursed by the state for the development of secondary roads. These would be within park lands. It is estimated the amount coming to EBRPD would total about $65,000 annually.

A third legislative item concerns technical amendments to the Public Resources Code under which the District operates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 15 PARK COUNCIL HIKE - Danville to Star View acquisition, Las Trampas Regional Park. Meet 9:30 a.m. in Safeway parking lot, Alamo. Bring your own sustenance.

Feb. 18 PARK COUNCIL MEETING - Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

March 1 PARK COUNCIL HIKE - Canyon. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Moraga Post Office.

March 8 PARK COUNCIL HIKE - Las Trampas. Meet 9:30 a.m. in Safeway parking lot, Alamo.

March 15 PARK COUNCIL HIKE - Nortonville Coal Mines. Meet 10:00 a.m. at Ygnacio Valley Road and Clayton Road.

CONSERVATION IN BRIEF

--In a nationwide highway beauty contest sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, the John Muir home in Martinez won in the category of preservation of historic sites. Trees planted by John Muir were saved during construction of the new freeway.

--Ugly overhead power lines on Contra Costa Blvd., between Boyd Road and Taylor Blvd., are to be undergrounded this year.

--San Ramon Valley Chamber of Commerce is spearheading a campaign to put underground the overhead power lines that currently festoon Highway 21, the main street of Danville and Alamo.

--Supervisor James Moriarty has proposed an ordinance to protect trees and foliage. According to the Contra Costa Times, the ordinance would require replacement of all foliage destroyed by industrial and residential development. The aim of the proposal is to reduce air pollution by maintaining adequate production of oxygen by living plants.

--Future use of Chlordane, DDT, and other "hard" pesticides in units of the California State Park System is to be strictly regulated. Three chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides will be banned completely; they are Dieldrin, Endrin, and Aldrin.

--The monthly accumulation of litter thrown from automobiles averages 1,034 pieces of trash for each mile of interstate and primary highway, or 12,408 pieces per mile per year. Paper trash accounts for 59 percent of the litter; cans, 16 percent; plastic items, 6; bottles and jars, 6; and miscellaneous, 13. These figures, released by the Highway Research Board, were reported in Motorland. According to the HRB, education and publicity are the only hopes for reducing the amount of litter.

Twenty-five physicians on the staff of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic took part in a program that provides further evidence of physical and physiologic improvement as a result of daily jogging. After jogging one mile a day for two months, the joggers showed a mean improvement of 35% in their physical efficiency index. They also enjoyed progressive improvement in their energy, endurance, and sense of well-being. (Medical Tribune)

Middle-aged and older men can undergo periods of severe exercise training with expectations of marked improvement in their physical capabilities, according to tests made by researchers at the University of Florida and the University of Southern California. One research team concluded that "some part of what has been reported in older men as agewise regression and deterioration of functional capacities may be in reality a disuse phenomenon that is reversible." (Medical Tribune)

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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

VOL. 70 NO. 4 APRIL 1970

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94596
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478
Artwork and Printing: Goldenberg, 1041 Ulfinian Way, Martinez, Calif., 94553, Telephone 228-1677

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CONFERENCE LOOMS LARGER

You have been saving Saturday, May 16, for the Park Council's conference, "Environment - A Search for the Answers". Now's the time to send in your reservation. You'll find a reservation blank in the accompanying brochure. You know that this conference is not to be missed, so why don't you do a favor for a hard-working committee and send in your reservation at once?

The $3.50 fee (including lunch) is exactly the same as that for the Park Council conference four years ago. No inflation here!

Examination of the topics, speakers, and panelists will show you that this is to be a practical down-and-bolts affair. Built around the legislative approach to our environmental problems, the conference will feature communication between law makers, control agencies, and concerned conservationists. There will be much to learn; but beyond this we hope to reach firm conclusions and make definite recommendations for action.

Note that the long hour-and-a-half lunch period is not for a siesta! This break will give you the chance to get acquainted with the thirty or so organizations co-sponsoring the conference. Rooms will be set aside for movies and informal discussions. There will be exhibits and literature. You'll be able to meet, and discuss issues with, the many knowledgeable people who will be there.

The physical set-up at Pittsburg is the finest for our purpose in the county. Centered on the 2,000-seat Creative Arts Building, the cluster of three schools will provide plenty of smaller rooms for workshops, displays, and discussion areas. Box lunches of fried chicken will be prepared by the highly capable staff of the school cafeteria. Free coffee will be at hand during registration and lunch.

This conference promises to be a landmark in Bay Area conservation efforts. Your early reservation will be most helpful to the committee in making final plans.

--Al Burton

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PENNIES TO HELP PG&E

You know that the Public Utilities Commission sided with PG&E and gave them permission to run a high-voltage power line through Briones Regional Park. The Sierra Club is carrying on the fight to prevent this disfigurement of a public park and has requested a rehearing before the PUC. If this is not granted, they plan to appeal to the California Supreme Court.

We believe, however, that PG&E are sincere in their oft-professed concern for the environment. Also, being jealous of their good public image, they must recognize that, with all the petitions, hike-ins, and picketing, this image is becoming tarnished. Our conclusion is that they certainly don't want to run their power line through a public park, but simply can't afford the rerouting.

PG&E needs our help! Here's what we can do. Each month, when we pay our PG&E bill, we shall simply make out our check for one cent more than the amount of the bill! Then, we'll enclose a little note explaining that the extra payment is to help them meet the expense of rerouting their power line so that a public park will not be defaced. If enough of us help PG&E in this way, maybe they can find a better route for the power line than through beautiful Briones Park.

--Al Burton

PARK LAND OWNERSHIP TODAY

PLOT stands for Park Land Ownership Today, the Park Council's do-it-ourselves fund to purchase park land. (Note that the reference is to a plot of land, not to the sinister kind.) Although hardly a replacement for the large amounts of public money so desperately needed, our PLOT fund can buy worthwhile amounts of land. In addition, it can demonstrate the intense public interest in getting park land before it has all disappeared. The Park Council has voted to allocate all PLOT funds to Las Trampas Park. Those of you who have hiked into this wilderness area with one of our outings must certainly agree that a happier choice could not have been made.

Remember that a penny buys a square foot, and a dollar buys enough to have a picnic on. Even one aluminum beer can buys 72 square inches of park land! Here's something that ecology groups can get their teeth into! Recycle rubbish! Turn trash into

https://archive.org/details/igsl_cty-contra-costa-park-council-news_1970_v70_1-24-9

The Contra Costa Park Council, formerly the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council, is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Park Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing adequate opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions are tax-deductible.
President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716.

cash and the cash into PLOT to buy park land! Besides aluminum cans, PLOT can use MONEY or even Blue Chip stamps. Send to PLOT Fund, c/o Mrs. Wm. Sattler, 4050 Poplar Avenue, Concord, California, 94521. Fund-raising benefits or any other ideas: talk them over with someone in the Park Council. The 1,500 acres of Las Trampas Regional Park isn't enough. The park needs to be much, much bigger.

--Al Burton

SENATOR CRANSTON WRITES LAS TRAMPAS BILL

You are probably aware that Congressman Jerome Waldie some time ago introduced a bill in Congress (HR 8986) that would create the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and the Las Trampas Ridge National Park. Senator Alan Cranston is now considering the introduction of a companion bill in the senate. As part of a study, three of his aides have inspected the Las Trampas area and visited the O'Neill home.

It is most important that Senator Cranston receive letters encouraging him to introduce this bill. Write Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510, Att'n. Robert T. Grey, Jr. Cranston's bill would greatly strengthen Waldie's bill and increase the chances of its success. A short note is enough. Make this your effort for conservation today!

OUTINGS

Park Council outings are in full swing this sunny spring. Join the happy throng (often 150 people) on a delightful hike into the scenic wonders of the County. See the CALENDAR for details. Bring lunch.

PARK DEDICATION ORDINANCE

On March 24, 1970, the Contra Costa County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed Park Dedication Ordinance prepared by the county planning staff. Spokesmen for the 30 or 40 proponents of the ordinance stated that they were well pleased with the ordinance as it stood and wanted its immediate adoption. However, representatives of the building and real estate industries stated that they were considering improvements to the ordinance and had not had sufficient time to develop their ideas in full. The Planning Commission obliged them with a vote to grant a continuance until April 28, 1970. (It is important for people interested in the adoption of this ordinance to be present at that meeting.)

The following letter has been sent to Mr. Dean P. LaField, Executive Secretary, Home Builders Association, and to Mr. Loren Mowrey, Executive Secretary of the Board of Realtors.

Dear Sirs:

Your organization and our Park Council group have a great deal in common in wanting the best possible pattern of development for Contra Costa County. Therefore, I am sure that we are in agreement that adoption of the proposed park dedication ordinance will be a big forward step in securing a well-planned, attractive Contra Costa. As you know the proponents of the ordinance who have been working with the Park Council feel that the county planning staff have done a fine job in drafting the ordinance and we are quite willing to accept the fourth draft dated February 2, 1970, (or the fifth draft which we understand has only minor changes in wording) without change.

However, you told the Planning Commission that you have certain improvements in mind, but did not divulge their nature. We would like to concur with the County Planning Director's request that these changes that you recommend be made public within two weeks from the date of the recent hearing. (This would be by April 7, 1970). Only by having your suggestions in the Planning Director's hands by this date will there be sufficient time for all of us to give them proper consideration and for us to get together with you to discuss them. We are most interested in any ideas you may have to present, and certainly hope that you will cooperate with us and with the Planning Director in presenting them promptly.

Sincerely,
Alvin A. Burton, President
Contra Costa Park Council

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 12, Sunday -- PARK COUNCIL OUTING, Mt. Diablo foothills. Meet at Ygnacio Valley Road and Clayton Road, 10:00 a.m.

April 15, Wednesday -- PARK COUNCIL MEETING, Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, 8:00 p.m. A warm welcome to all.

April 18, Saturday -- Bay Area "Constitutional Convention", U.C. Berkeley, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Review and discussion of legislative proposals for Bay Area regional organization. Information: 646-6722.

April 19, Sunday -- PARK COUNCIL OUTING, Las Trampas Ridge. Meet at Safeway parking lot, Alamo, 9:30 a.m.

April 26, Sunday -- PARK COUNCIL OUTING, Point Pinole. Meet at Co-op parking lot, El Cerrito (near Cutting Blvd.), 10:00 a.m.

May 3, Sunday -- PARK COUNCIL OUTING, Las Trampas Ridge. Meet at Safeway parking lot, Alamo, 9:30 a.m.

May 16, Saturday -- PARK COUNCIL CONFERENCE, "Environment: a Search for the Answers". Pittsburg High School, all day (see CONFERENCE LOOMS LARGER).

POINT RICHMOND PARK AT LAST

In an almost holiday atmosphere with members of Richmond's Contra Costa Shorelines Park Committee on the verge of bursting into song, the EBRPD Directors took action to erase the word "proposed" from the Pt. Richmond Shoreline Park project.

Culminating 2 1/2 years of negotiations, the Directors allocated $113,000 to purchase 8 1/2 acres of flat land above high tide on the point from the Santa Fe Railway at a cost of $10,000 an acre and acquire six lots atop Nicholl Knob from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Edwards, for $24,000. The balance of the sum will go for attorney and appraiser fees.

Ultimately, under terms of what might be called the "Pt. Richmond package," the Park District will have a shoreline park totaling, perhaps, 200 acres.

BRIONES MAY EXPAND

EBRPD is studying the possibility of acquiring additional land at the north end of Briones Regional Park.

A consultant, Lewis Crutcher, said that an additional 20 to 30 acres would provide vitally needed flat land for park purposes. It would also protect the visual integrity of the developed park area. The extra land would round out the 10-acre parcel already owned by the Park District in the bowl-shaped valley.

"The whole value of Briones," Crutcher noted, "lies in its isolation. The additional acreage would protect the area from encroaching suburbia and allow the picnic and camping areas to be isolated from the sea of autos in a parking lot."

Crutcher said that the additional space could be used to separate a proposed equestrian center from the areas of heavy use and avoid contamination of Alhambra Creek.

Wall Street Journal reports an announcement from Union Carbide Corporation's Linde division that it has developed a new type of secondary waste treatment system that could cut the cost of combating water pollution as much as 50%. The system uses oxygen instead of air to speed the aeration of waste water, increase the oxygen content six to eight times, and produce less garbage. Carbide claims its process to be "probably the most significant development in water pollution control in this century." The company says that it is ready to market the new process as a package deal, complete with hardware, technology, and oxygen or oxygen plants.

GERMS TO THE RESCUE

EBRPD has decided to wage "germ warfare" against the California oakmoth, which can defoliate the California live oak periodically when allowed to multiply unchecked. In addition to making the oaks unsightly, the caterpillars create a nuisance for picnickers and hikers by dropping refuse and debris from the trees and generally making a mess of picnic tables and drinking fountains.

The "germs" are a form of bacteria, bacillus thuringiensis, which paralyze the stomach of the caterpillar and make it impossible for it to absorb nourishment. Doctor Dudley E. Pinnock, entomologist at the University of California, Berkeley, suggested the control method. Gary Pickering, foreman at Redwood Regional Park, agreed to conduct a test. Pickering's initial tests proved encouraging. Control of the oakmoth was excellent, with no reduction in the numbers of their natural enemies.

"We could find no indication of any ill effects to other insects or organisms," Pickering said about the bacterial preparation. "And it is so safe

for humans that you could spread it on a peanut butter sandwich and eat it." The Food and Drug Administration is equally convinced that the bacteria are harmless, and has granted a full exemption for use on food and forage crops.

Since all chemical pesticides have been abandoned, this will be the only spraying program carried out by EBRPD this year.

CONSERVATION NOTES

--Pleasanton Township Advisory Committee has suggested the inclusion of mechanical parks in the EBRPD Master Plan for the valleys "because of the increased popularity of motorized two-wheel vehicles." The concept might be expanded to include other vehicles.

--EBRPD will spend $1,000 for a biological analysis of Lake Anza in Tilden Regional Park. The analysis will be made by Robert Coats under supervision of Associate Prof. Paul J. Zinke of the U.C. School of Forestry and Conservation. The goal of the study will be to determine the effect of application of fertilizer to the Tilden Golf Course on the nutrient budget and algae growth of Lake Anza. The work will constitute the first phase of a long-range project to remove algae and to clarify Lake Anza and other EBRPD swim areas.

BIKE RIDES, ANYONE?

Diablo Wheelmen Bicycle Club offers a great variety of bicycle rides--easy, short trips or long grueling rides, according to one's fitness and preference.

For details, call Art Bonwell (President) 686-1151; Ken Green (V-P) 935-8378; or Ron Kitowski (Secretary-Treasurer) 685-5373.

EASIER ACCESS

As an aid to hikers and horsemen, self-latching gates are being installed in Briones Regional Park. Numerous stiles have already been placed in the park, straddling fences, to make it more convenient for hikers. The new self-latching gates will also be installed in Las Trampas Regional Park and in the area separating Tilden Regional Park from the newly-acquired Wildcat Canyon acreage.

Hulet C. Hornbeck explained that certain park areas in which cattle are allowed to graze must necessarily be fenced. Heretofore, gates have been padlocked. With the new self latching devices, horsemen can open the gates without dismounting. The gates are gravity-actuated for closing. Hikers, who previously had to crawl through barbed wire fences or climb them, can now make use of the self-latching gates.

Hornbeck explained that the Park District is anxious to have more use made of the grazing areas by hikers and equestrians and the gates will assist this aim. Grazing is permitted in some parts of the park to reduce fire hazards; EBRPD receives some revenue from cattlemen.

SHADOW CLIFFS GETS GOING

Final approval of the master plan and "development guide" for Shadow Cliffs Aquatic Park on the outskirts of Pleasanton has been given by the Directors of EBRPD. Included was a go-ahead on the $500,000 "first phase" development. The park, situated in a 144 acre depleted gravel pit, is scheduled to open late this year. The property, with its 74-acre lake, was given to EBRPD by the Kaiser interests.

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Conference Now Imminent

This is the last call for "Environment: A Search for the Answers," the Park Council conference to be held on Saturday, May 16, 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Pittsburg High School, 250 School Street, Pittsburg.

The final deadline for lunch reservations is Monday, May 11, so your registration form absolutely must be in the mail by Saturday, May 9. You will find a form in the conference brochure that most of you have received. You will also find one in this newsletter. How about doing the conference staff a big favor by sending in your registration form NOW?

This one-day conference will bring together community leaders, opinion shapers, and all people interested in problems of the Bay Area environment. The aim of the conference is to find practical solutions to those problems.

BRING ALUMINUM CANS, FOIL, AND ANY OTHER ALUMINUM PRODUCTS.

A bin will be provided for this material, which can easily be recycled. The stuff is worth around $200 a ton. Proceeds of this collection will be used to swell the Park Council's PLOT fund for open-space acquisition.

PLAN TO ENJOY the lunch-hour program. You can explore the exhibition, see slide shows, puppet shows, and "crankies" (what?), and pick up litter, or simply engage in a marathon coffeeklatsch with legions of conservationists and perhaps an opponent or two.

EXHIBITS of the Sierra Club, East Bay Regional Park District, Ecology Action, Zero Population Growth, and other groups will fascinate and entertain you.

HORSEMEN will find a whole room devoted to the subject of trails and other facilities for equestrians.

EVERYONE -- here's your chance to learn a lot about ecological issues and teach what you know about these vital matters. Let's see you all in Pittsburg!

View across the Bishop Ranch, recently acquired by Western Electric Corp. This natural greenbelt of almost 1,800 acres separates the growing urbanized area of Walnut Creek-Danville from that of San Ramon-Dublin. W. E. plans to build a large assembly plant on part of the ranch and develop the rest for other uses.

AUDUBON WELCOMES YOU

The Mt. Diablo Audubon Society holds its regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B at the Sun Valley Shopping Center, Concord. Everyone is welcome. For details, call Chris Nelson (228-9369) or Ed Mize (686-1341).

We said a couple of months ago that the Audubon meetings were held on the first Monday of the month. That's not so; but once in a while the Audubon people switch the dates around for some special reason. Better check with Chris or Ed.

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Put-Puts To Get A Break

An "ideal" park for motor cyclists will soon open on a 1,246-acre site straddling the Alameda-San Joaquin County line, if both counties approve. According to The Independent, the proposed Carnegie Cycle Park has rolling hills 600-1700 feet high. The nearest house is 2 miles away, so noise is not expected to be a problem. For information, call Clyde Reeves, the proprietor, at 846-8457 (Livermore).

PLOT FUND GROWS

Donations of money and Blue Chip stamps are swelling PLOT (Park Land Ownership Today), the Park Council's fund for acquisition of recreational open space. The 6th grade class of San Miguel elementary school is collecting paper and giving the proceeds to PLOT.

Be sure to bring empty aluminum cans and any other aluminum objects to the conference. See details under CONFERENCE NOW IMMINENT.

NEW LAWS MAY AID PARKS

New hopes for an accelerated start on acquisition of lands for the Nortonville-Somersville Coal Mines Regional Park near Antioch and Pittsburg are seen in legislation pending in Sacramento.

These prospects came to light as Directors of EBRPD endorsed six bills, pending in the legislature, which affect the Park District. They also gave the go-ahead for EBRPD staff members to testify at Sacramento in behalf of the legislation.

The sum of $250,000, in earmarked State Park Bond funds, for the Coal Mines Park has not been turned over to EBRPD because the state has been unable to sell the Park Bonds, which carry an unattractive interest ceiling of only 5 percent.

Designed to remove the fiscal roadblock is Assembly Bill 2145 authored by Assemblyman John F. Dunlap (D., Vallejo) which would order the State Director of Finance to transfer $4,490,886 from the General Fund into the State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Fund. There it could be drawn upon for such projects as the Coal Mines Park after appropriation by the legislature. The moneys would be returned to the General Fund following sale of the Park Bonds.

Dunlap's office said the bill would have a hearing before the Natural Resources and Conservation Committee some time after May 3. Because of the transfer of funds involved, the Ways and Means Committee would need to review it also before it came to a vote of the lower house.

Assembly Bill 2077, authored by Assemblyman John T. Knox (D., Richmond), which deletes the cut-off date of 1975 for the five-cent override on the basic five-cent Park District tax rate was also approved by the EBRPD Board. The legislation has the effect of raising permanently the District's basic tax of 5 cents per $100 of assessed valuation to 10 cents per $100.

Also approved by the EBRPD Board was Assembly Bill 1635, authored by Assemblyman Don Mulford (R., Oakland). The bill provides that a certain portion of fines and bail forfeitures resulting from vehicle code arrests made in the Regional Parks by Rangers will be turned over to the EBRPD General Fund.

The EBRPD Board also formally approved three bills introduced by State Senator Nicholas C. Petris (D., Oakland) amending the Public Resources Code to clarify Park District activities in the areas of operation and maintenance of trails, ecological and open space preserves, and contractual dealings with concessionaires. A portion of one bill will make it possible for the Park District to go to the voters to seek a tax increase.

NIX ON CLIFTON COURT

EBRPD declined the offer of the State Department of Parks and Recreation to allow EBRPD to operate the 2,300-acre water-oriented Clifton Court Forebay project situated in Contra Costa County near the Delta and Tracy pumping plants about midway between Stockton and Tracy.

THANKS TO LIONS

The Board of EBRPD accepted, with thanks, a $600 donation from the Diablo Valley Lions Club to be used for the installation of two complete picnic units at Las Trampas Regional Park.

EBMUD APPOINTS CONSERVATION CHIEF

William T. Hartman of Walnut Creek has been promoted to superintendent of land management and recreation for the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

Hartman, a native Texan with a master's degree in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley, has been with EBMUD nearly 20 years. In his new position he is in charge of coordinating recreation activities at five sites on EBMUD reservoirs. He also supervises patrolling and management of the utility's 54,000 acres of land in the East Bay and in San Joaquin, Amador and Calaveras counties.

Now vice president of Keep California Green, Hartman has been active in forestry and conservation programs for many years. He also has held offices in the Society of American Foresters, American Society of Range Management, and the Soil Conservation Society of America. He also ties in his avocation of flying with his job, such as surveying Sierra snow packs through aerial photography.

Hartman and his wife, Arlene, have two children and live in Walnut Creek.

Medical Tribune and Medical News reports that, thanks to the Clean Air Act, London has not had a thick fog since 1965. The last bad smog was in 1962. According to weather experts, London enjoys 50 percent more winter sunshine than it did 10 years ago. The swifts are returning, and flowers are blooming where once only privets grew.

Smoke from domestic chimneys is only 13 percent of what it was in 1952, and the smoke output of industries is down to 18 percent. Sulphur dioxide output has also been cut, but by less than that of smoke. It is down to 80 percent of the 1952 figure.

POINT PINOLE MAGNIFICENT AS EVER

On April 26, two dozen outdoorsmen braved the mildly adverse conditions of threatening skies and a few brief showers to walk the incomparable shore line of Point Pinole. Unique among the scheduled hikes, this was the only one to visit the finest remnant of unspoiled shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The rolling green meadows and woods of tall eucalyptus trees provided an astonishing contrast to the usual depressing aspects of industries and commercialization of the Bay.

Those who attended this hike have more than an inkling of the sights that must have greeted the early Spanish explorers. The mud flats were teeming with shorebirds that included the semi-palmated plover, black-bellied plover, avocet, snowy egret, great blue heron, and many varieties of small sandpiper.

Alas, all but the shoreline itself - up to high tide - belongs to Bethlehem Steel Company, which has no intention, as far as we know, of releasing any of these irreplaceable meadows for public use. It seems a tragedy that this lovely area - which must be seen to be believed - cannot be assured of permanent preservation for the benefit of all people forever.

We suggest that a letter to Mr. Norman Livermore in Sacramento will help convince our public servants that the worth of this area cannot be measured in dollars, and that its scenic and inspirational values can live forever.

-- Manfred Lindner

TRAILS PROGRESS

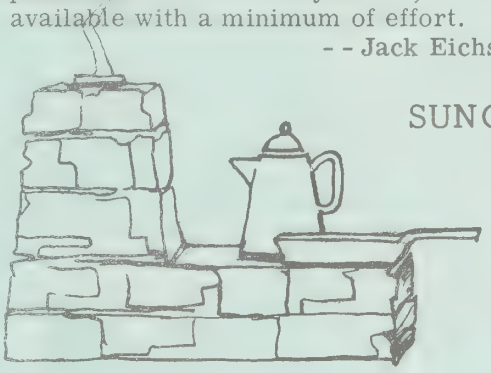
At the initiative of Pleasant Hill City Planner Jim MacLaughlin, city and county planners have taken steps to coordinate trail plans, with agreement on the part of the County to include trails as a part of the recreation component of the County general plan, now under preparation. (The trails portion will be added later to the recreation plan, needed urgently now for the proposed parkland dedication ordinance.)

Trails were the subject of a meeting held on February 25 at the invitation of the Pleasant Hill Community Development Committee. Attending were planning and park and recreation staff from all central county cities, the Contra Costa County Water District, the County Flood Control District, the East Bay Regional Park District, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and other groups including the Park Council and the East Bay Area Trails Council.

Two of the main accomplishments were (1) agreement by Hulet Hornbeck of EBRPD that the District would serve as a focus for developing a unified planning document for funding purposes, and (2) offers of full cooperation from both the Water District and the Flood Control District in use of rights-of-way for trails, providing someone else picks up the tab and negotiates additional easements.

These continuing efforts are encouraging. We hope, too, that the cities will take steps now to negotiate trail rights and provide trail crossings at new street intersections, without waiting for a lengthy planning process. Many of the best trail possibilities are already known, and could be made available with a minimum of effort.

-- Jack Eichstedt



SUNOL IN THE NEWS

Land-use plans for 1,200 additional acres in Sunol Valley Regional Park will extend picnic and day use facilities eastward along Alameda Creek to provide for 3,200 persons.

REGISTRATION FORM:

ENVIRONMENT: A SEARCH FOR THE ANSWERS

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____

DEADLINE: MAY 11, 1970

Please check which afternoon workshop you would prefer to attend.

_____ I. Bay-Delta Problems

_____ II. Population-How Dense Can We Be?

_____ III. Air Pollution Control

_____ IV. Parks and Open Space

Registration $3.50 _____ Adults

$2.50 _____ Students

Price includes box lunch.

Make check payable to Contra Costa Park Council. Mail to: Mrs. Wm. Sattler, 4050 Poplar Avenue, Concord, California or phone 685-5315.

One long-range plan envisions an auto-free park on holidays and weekends, with an electric "elephant train" or old-fashioned hay-wagon taking persons two miles into the park from a "staging area" where park users would leave their cars. This 100-acre area would provide auto parking, a trailer camp, stables, and tent camping.

"There is very little flat land in this 3863-acre park," Walter Toney, Chief of the EBRPD Plans, Design and Construction Department, said, "and where to put autos is one of our biggest problems. Minimizing the impact of the automobile is an important goal."

Tent camping and family overnight camping will be retained in their present location. There will be a new overnight camping site north of Alameda Creek in a relatively isolated area about a half a mile from park headquarters. Also planned is an equestrian overnight camp for large groups of horsemen. This camp would be readily accessible to trails.

CREEK LANDSCAPING BEGINS

A Concord firm has been awarded the first landscaping contract to be let by the Contra Costa County Flood Control District since adopting its policy of landscaping and beautification on certain projects within public view in Zone 3B, the Walnut Creek Watershed.

The local firm will install trees, shrubs, and ground cover along 140 feet of the Green Valley Creek Improvement Project in Danville.

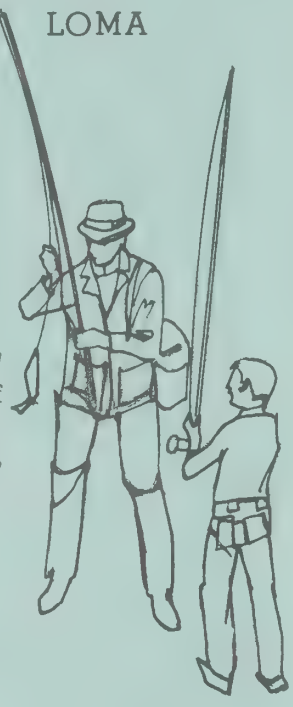
The Flood Control District recently inaugurated a policy of consulting citizens and organizations when planning channel improvements. Its purpose is to avoid the esthetic blight that has often marred hydraulic engineering projects.

Planned for future beautification are areas of some completed projects on San Ramon and Las Trampas Creeks, as well as landscaping of a new channel improvement project in Green Valley Creek between the freeway and El Pintado Road.

FISHING CONTRA LOMA

Agreement has been reached between EBRPD, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Contra Costa County Water District to provide for fishing at Contra Loma Regional Park, south of Antioch.

"Our primary concern," Robert Evans of the Bureau of Reclamation explained, "Must be for the safety of the public, both those using the reservoir for fishing and those using the water in their homes after it leaves the reservoir.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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May 20, Wednesday -- PARK COUNCIL MEETING, Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

May 24, Sunday -- PARK COUNCIL OUTING, Morgan Territory. Meet at Ygnacio Valley Road and Clayton Road, Concord, 10:00 a.m. Bring sustenance.

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Artwork and Printing: Goldenberg, 1041 Ulfinian Way, Martinez, Calif., 94553, Telephone 228-1677

Conference A Great Success

More than 300 people attended the Park Council Conference, "Environment: A Search for the Answers," held on May 16 at Pittsburg High School. Legislators, county officials, ecologists, and concerned citizens analyzed critical problems that now endanger the "life-support systems" of "space-ship Earth." Discussion ranged over air pollution, water pollution, urban sprawl, the population explosion, the California Water Project, and just about every other topic that can be lumped together in the expression "ecological crisis."

A report of the conference is available for a mere 50¢. Write for your copy to Mrs. William Sattler, 4050 Poplar Avenue, Concord, California, 94521. Be sure to enclose your remittance. (How about making it a dollar, the balance to go to PLOT for acquisition of open space?)

PARK COUNCIL TO DISCUSS RECYCLING

Wednesday, June 17, is the date of the next Park Council meeting at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. Time: 8:00 p.m. Topic: recycling of aluminum cans, old newspapers, and anything else that can be reused so as to husband our natural resources and ease the engulfing tide of garbage.

Speakers will include Mrs. John Sternbergh, Tom Lee (Pleasant Hill H.S. science teacher and recycler), and Pat McLafferty (Chairman, Concord d Youth Council).

Be sure to attend and help with your ideas. If the Park Council can organize substantial recycling in the county, the PLOT fund for parkland acquisition will begin to make its influence felt. Your support is essential, so let's see you on the 17th.

CRITICAL TIME FOR OPEN SPACE ACTION IS NOW

Most readers of Park Council News have recently received a letter and petition form from Open Space Action, 384 Post Street, Room 203, San Francisco, Calif. 94108. The communication invites you to do all you can to ensure passage of Senate Bill 1400, the Marks' bill.

SB 1400 proposes establishing a 27-member Bay Area Regional Open Space Commission, similar to BCDC. BAROSC would study, plan, and recommend action to acquire, preserve, and regulate development of open space in the entire Bay Area. It would have permit power during the 2-year study period.

This bill, in the view of the Park Council, is of immense importance. Not only would the open-space preserve be beautiful to look at and good for your health: it would save you, the long-suffering taxpayer, a lot of money. The reason is that the present sprawl is hideously wasteful of tax funds and natural resources. Sprawl is very much against the public interest and should no longer be tolerated.

Open space preservation has been a great success in other parts of the world. The London Green Belt, for example, rings that city of 8 million people with more than a million acres of beautiful countryside. Most of the land is in private ownership but protected from development incompatible with the open aspect of the countryside.

Write to Bay Area legislators now urging them to support SB 1400. No other comparable legislation is in sight. You may address each legislator as follows: State Capitol, Sacramento, Calif. 95814.

SENATORS

Milton R. Marks (R) S.F.
George Moscone (D) S.F.
Richard I. Dolwig (R) S.M.
Alfred E. Alquist (D) S.C.
Clark L. Bradley (R) S.C., Alameda
John Nejedly (R) Contra Costa
John McCarthy (R) Marin, Solano, Napa
Lewis F. Sherman (R) Alameda
Nicholas Petris (D) Alameda

ASSEMBLYMEN

Willie L. Brown, Jr. (D) S.F.
Leo T. McCarthy (D) S.F.
John L. Burton (D) S.F.
John F. Foran (D) S.F.
Carl A. Britschgi (R) S.M.
Leo J. Ryan (D) S.M.
George W. Milias (R) S.C.
John Vasconcellos (D) S.C.
Earle P. Crandall (R) S.C.
Carlos Bee (D) Alameda
Robert W. Crown (D) Alameda
March K. Fong (D) Alameda
Don Mulford (R) Alameda
John J. Miller (D) Alameda
James W. Dent (R) Contra Costa
John T. Know (D) Contra Costa
William T. Bagley (R) Marin
John F. Dunlap (D) Solano, Napa

The Contra Costa Park Council, formerly the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council, is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Park Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing adequate opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions are tax-deductible.
President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716.

NEWS TO TAKE A REST

Park Council News will not appear during the months of July and August, unless a conservation crisis pops up. (Let's face it: hardly a week goes by without such a crisis, but some are more critical than others!)

Our next issue will come out in September. Until then, please accept our editorial wishes for a pleasant summer.

Pinole Park Possible Pending

Moving cautiously, EBRPD Directors have voted to make a field trip to the proposed 161-acre, $158,000 Pt. Pinole Shoreline Park before authorizing any action which would be binding on the District.

Meanwhile, preliminary negotiations with the State Lands Commission will continue for a possible 49-year lease on the state lands, most of which are submerged. A lease application has been filed as a prerequisite laid down by the state, and a preliminary master plan has been prepared.

President John A. Macdonald, Oakland, was enthusiastic about the project and foresaw that it might be expanded into a 600- or 700-acre park on level bayshore lands to the north or south. He urged that all members of the Board view the site, which is adjacent to Parchester Village in the vicinity of Giant Highway and the Richmond Golf and Country Club.

Attorney Ralph E. Warner of the Contra Costa Legal Services Foundation in Richmond also spoke optimistically of expanding the proposed park. General Manager Richard C. Trudeau expressed a cautious but similar view.

Vice President Fred C. Blumberg, Lafayette, wanted to know "why we should continue to acquire and operate parks of a non-regional character" and felt the City of Richmond, in which Parchester Village is situated, had a responsibility.

Director Clyde R. Woolridge, Oakland, asked Warner whether Richmond had been approached on the matter. "After all," he observed, "they are anxious to collect your taxes. Why shouldn't they develop such a park?" Warner declared he would "rather not go into that."

At this point, Jim Lipary, of San Pablo, declared: "We did approach the City of Richmond. But we don't believe they have expressed much interest in developing a park to be used by the poor and elderly in San Pablo and Parchester Village."

Lindsay J. Strout, Richmond Park Superintendent, sought to answer this criticism by explaining that the city has spent $75,000 for a 2-1/2 -acre park site near the area. As soon as title troubles are cleared up, he said, a clubhouse and neighborhood facility will be built.

EBRPD Asst. General Manager Lee Walton pointed out that the proposed park should be considered as "the first increment in a shoreline parks ecological preserve which will be distinctly regional in character."

"Available shoreline on the bay for public use is so scarce we should jump at the chance to acquire all that we can," Director George C. Roeding, Jr., Fremont, observed. "There is a real need for it."

Director Paul E. Harberts, Berkeley, wanted to make certain that steps taken thus far were only exploratory and subject to Board veto. Trudeau stressed that all action taken to date had already been authorized by the Board and only a progress report was being submitted.

Director Paul J. Badger, Pinole, speaking on behalf of the residents of the area declared that "all they want to do is get on the land, legally, and do some fishing. They expect no elaborate development immediately."

Trudeau explained that until a lease was agreed upon and signed, the state would not permit use of the land.

Warner, in backing up his optimistic view that the park could be expanded, declared that "Bethlehem Steel may not put up that huge plant at Pt. Pinole that was talked about." He added, "Competition from the Orient may make it unfeasible."

The preliminary master plan, filed with the state, calls for a novel 1000-foot zig-zag "board walk" taking park goers out across the marsh lands where salt water plant and animal life may be studied. A small ecology center is planned, plus two nature study observation stations or rest areas spotted along the route of the "cat walks."

At the high tide mark, a 260-foot fishing pier will extend into bay waters. A small picnic area is planned for a filled area at the eastern end of the park. Two parking lots accommodating 150 cars are provided.

Hulet C. Hornbeck, EBRPD Chief of Land Acquisition and Management felt that, due to the low income character of the area, matching funds might be forthcoming from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Hornbeck said approval of the park concept had already come from BCDC, which has jurisdiction 100 feet inland from the bay shore.

Negotiations are continuing with the Southern Pacific Railroad for an underpass giving access to

the park proper from the eastern side of the right-of-way. There is a seven-acre "access corridor," 100 feet wide, which extends from Giant Highway to the S. P. tracks. The bulk of this area will be used for parking.

West of the tracks, the proposed park widens to 300 feet, extending to the high tide line. The submerged tidal lands then mushroom out to 1,200 feet in width and extend 4,800 feet into the bay.

BUSINESS HELPS WALK FOR MANKIND

Twenty-nine employees of Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco lawbook publisher, and their companions participated recently in the "Walk for Mankind." Eleven people completed the entire 22-mile course. A total of 401 miles was walked, raising $401 for Project Concern, to be contributed by the company. In addition, several walkers obtained individual sponsors, including a number of company employees, who contributed a total of $58.55. It is believed that Bancroft-Whitney was the only company to participate in the walk on an organized basis.

TRAILS POSSIBLE ALONG CONTRA COSTA CANAL

East Bay Area Trails Council at its April 29 meeting heard a report by John Nelson, of the Contra Costa County Water District, on the 49-mile canal owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. He said that the canal is presently an open system, which presents great danger of drowning if used as a trail. In the last six months, the Water District has been working on alternative plans to convey more water and modify their existing facilities. Its Board of Directors has directed District engineers to plan a complete pipeline system. Feasibility work will now be done and a bond issue presented.

The Board would like to provide trail use of the 71-mile, 100-foot wide right-of-way. The new system should be operating by 1975-76 if the bond issue is successful and no obstacles come up. As to capital development funds for trails, costs that are purely recreational will be met by EBRPD. Contra Costa County will finance a roadway and, possibly, fencing. Horsemen's groups may be able to assist the Water District when the bond issue comes to a vote in about 1971.

EAST BAY GETS MAJOR TRAIL

By official action of Interior Secretary Walter Hickel a 14-mile stretch of the newly-named "Skyline Trail" in the East Bay Regional Park District hill lands has been designated as the first non-federal National Recreation Trail in the nation. The trail runs through Redwood and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks and may be extended to Alvarado Park in Richmond, making a total length of 25 miles. Interior Department action paves the way for federal funding for further land acquisition and development.

"Selection of the first National Recreation Trail underscores our determination to expand quality outdoor recreation opportunities near urban areas," Hickel declared in making the announcement. "In the years ahead, many such trails will be provided to enhance our environment and increase recreation opportunities to cities."

Hickel added: "A comprehensive trails system developed through cooperative federal, state, local and private endeavor will provide hikers and campers with means of escaping motorized traffic."Trails encourage many healthful outdoor activities and thus contribute significantly to our national well-being."

PLANS FOR LAS TRAMPAS

A land-use plan for 1465-acre, two-county Las Trampas Regional Park emphasizing picnicking, day camping and hiking has been approved by the EBRPD Directors. It constitutes an interim step to completion of a master plan for the rugged park which is described as "virtually free of man-made elements."

A parking lot for 55 cars is planned at the terminus of Bolinger Canyon Road, which enters the miniature "alpine park" from the southeast with an "overflow lot" nearby. Three picnic areas--"Bay," "Confluence" and "Buckeye"--with some 55 tables for a maximum of 440 persons are contemplated.

"The park's topography, with 86 percent of the acreage with slopes greater than 25 percent and some exceeding 40 percent, suggests a minimum of automobiles," said Walter Toney, Chief of the EBRPD Plans, Design and Construction Department. "The ruggedness of the park is explained by the fact that the park includes portions of two major ridges--Rocky Ridge and Las Trampas Ridge--and intervening lands. Rocky Ridge has a maximum elevation of 2024 feet; Las Trampas touches 1787 and its average elevation is 1600.

Toney said the question of better access to the park is still under intensive study. Another way in is via Clipper Hill Road leading into the Starview Ranch portion of the park. At present it is suitable only for hikers and horsemen. Access from the northwest via Bolinger Canyon might be developed.

RIDGETOP PARKWAY OPPOSED

East Bay Area Trails Council has voted opposition to a proposed Alameda County ridgetop parkway. The road and a parallel trail would begin near Sunol and traverse the top of beautiful Pleasanton Ridge. Flat areas along the ridgetop would be open to planned unit development.

The road would cross US 50 at about the Rowell Ranch, come up Rocky Ridge toward Las Trampas, follow the Contra Costa County boundary across the park, go through EBMUD land above San Leandro Reservoir, and extend west toward the Pinehurst-Redwood Road intersection. Planning consultants said they had considered a route north of US 50 and were satisfied that the road should not cross park property or traverse large open spaces that have been designated by the Land Resources Committee as preserves.

The main purpose of the road is to give access to land areas not currently served by a road. Ed Royce made the comment that the actual purpose of the road may be to open up to developers areas designated as open space. He then moved that the Trails Council oppose the construction of any scenic parkway in the area of Pleasanton Ridge north to Las Trampas and that its opposition be conveyed to Alameda County. The motion was seconded and carried.

STUDENTS SWELL PLOT

In just 4 weeks, Pleasant Hill High School science students have raised $56 for PLOT. Students in the science department comprise about half of the student body. They collected aluminum and cardboard for recycling. Having raised enough money to buy one-eighth of an acre, they are going on for a full acre. The students built a can smasher, which squashes the cans in a compact unit, end to end.

For further information, contact Tom Lee, science teacher, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek, Calif., 94596. Phone: 934-5475.

Students of San Miguel School, Walnut Creek, have sent PLOT a check for $6.00 which they earned by selling old school papers.

MOTORCYCLE PARK NOW OPEN

Last month we said that an "ideal" park for motor cyclists would soon open on a 1,246-acre site straddling the Alameda-San Joaquin County line. Well, it is now in full operation, according to Clyde Reeves, the proprietor (846-8457).

This park has miles of rolling hills where motor cycles and minibikes are welcomed instead of abhorred. A full day's admission is $2.50 for motor cycles or $1.50 for minibikes. There are picnic facilities for families; also, patrol riders to help with mechanical failures or other problems.

UNDERGROUND IS BEAUTIFUL

State Senator Anthony C. Beilenson (D-Los Angeles) has introduced legislation to speed up the underground placement of utility lines in California.

The measure would require the Public Utilities Commission by 1972 to prepare and adopt a statewide plan and schedule for the undergrounding of telephone and electric power lines except in areas that are unpopulated or remote or where the terrain makes undergrounding impracticable.

Beilenson noted that it is official PUC policy to encourage underground placement, but he charged that the Commission has been "pusillanimous in implementing this policy and too permissive in allowing exceptions to it."

The lawmaker pointed out his bill would grant the PUC broad latitude in developing its statewide plan and timetable while giving the policy of undergrounding the "full force and effect of state law".

"The desirability of placing utility lines underground for reasons of aesthetics and safety has been well established and recognized by the PUC", Beilenson said, "but more vigorous action is needed. The legislation is designed to carry out the undergrounding policy in a systematic fashion."

Beilenson has also introduced a series of legislative measures to combat what he termed "the increasingly dangerous problem of noise pollution." He also stated that medical authorities cite excessive noise as a prime factor in a multitude of human ailments. "The situation is particularly severe in congested urban areas," he added, "and action is needed now to prevent it from getting worse."

Public To Enjoy View

To preserve 80 acres of steep Oakland-Berkeley hillside with "an unobstructed, magnificent view of the bay" as open space, EBRPD is negotiating with the State General Services Department for a 10-year lease on the land. It is situated in Berkeley directly east of and behind the California School for the Blind and Deaf.

General Manager Richard C. Trudeau emphasized that the hilly site will be designated as "open space so that it is fully understood that we are not going to develop it as a park." He said that probably the only development work to be undertaken on the acreage, which has a $250,000 market value, will be to improve or add to an existing trail and install sanitary facilities.

Trudeau pointed to the possibility of linking the new open space preserve with existing Tilden Regional Park by means of a one-mile trail. Main access to the 80-acre parcel is via Panoramic Way, although there is secondary access from Stonewall Road.

According to Trudeau, Berkeley police and fire departments and the U.C. Police have given assurances that they would cooperate in patrolling the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS GET BLESSING

EBRPD endorsed five bills, pending in the national and state legislatures, on environmental or park issues. These are the measures for which support is urged:

U.S. Senate Bill 305, by Senator Henry Jackson of the State of Washington, setting up a formula whereby $300,000,000 would be guaranteed annually for the life of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with 60 percent of the matching funds going to the state.

SB 878 by State Senator John A. Nejedly (R., Walnut Creek) requiring the State Public Utilities Commission to consider community values, recreational and park areas, and historical and aesthetic values in making decisions relating to the location of public utility structures. The PUC did not consider these matters in making its Briones Regional Park power line decision.

SB 86, Nejedly, which prohibits oil and gas exploration or extraction in San Pablo Bay.

AB 1283 which provides that preservation and enhancement of the environment must be one of the purposes of state water projects on a non-reimbursable basis.

AB 1293 by Assemblyman Earle P. Crandall (R., San Jose) providing that surplus state lands desirable for local recreation can be turned over to state or local park agencies.

PARK BOARD TO STAY HOME

EBRPD Directors have voted to discontinue their three-year-old policy of holding regular meetings at different cities throughout the two-county District each quarter.

The Board unanimously approved the motion by Director Paul J. Badger, Pinole, who cited lack of interest and poor attendance at several of the recent meetings held away from the District headquarters building.

In the future, Directors indicated, meetings will be scheduled in different locations only when issues of great local interest to a specific area justify the move.

BIKE PATHS GET GREEN LIGHT

EBRPD is building 5-1/2 miles of bicycle trails to help people escape "the tyranny of the automobile."

Directors accepted two bids by the Les McDonald Construction Company, Hayward, for bicycle trails at Anthony Chabot and Coyote Hills Regional Parks. McDonald was low on both projects among six bidders, at $15,021.25 for the Chabot job and $9,402.20 for Coyote Hills. Staff estimates for the bicycle trails had been $20,836 and $14,797, respectively.

At Coyote Hills, a 2-1/2-mile loop will follow an existing fire trail alignment giving bicyclists an unparalleled view of the South Bay, salt ponds, marine wildlife, and marsh sanctuaries. The new bike trail will link up with an existing equestrian and hiking trail where riders can pass under arched shrubbery on the perimeter of the marsh and emerge near the 4000-year-old-Indian Mounds before rejoining the Patterson Ranch Road leading to the park.

The 3-mile Anthony Chabot bike trail will start at the Lake Chabot Marina, follow an existing fire trail along the southeast shore, cross a finger of the lake on a rustic bridge, and wind up at the Willow Park Golf Course. Enroute, the bicyclists can view fishermen ashore and afloat and enjoy the oak-studded scenery.

"We are in the midst of a new bike boom," says Walter Toney, Chief of the EBRPD Plans, Design and Construction Department. "There are now an estimated 63,000,000 riders of bicycles in this country, and it is forecast that 10,000,000 bikes will be sold annually by 1975."

Toney adds that it is increasingly difficult to find safe and enjoyable places to ride. "We feel that it is one of the jobs of the Regional Park District to provide wholesome, enjoyable recreation for bicyclists..."

The bicycle is 180 years old this year. Doctor Irvine H. Page, former president of the American Heart Association, states "We ought to replace the automobile with the bicycle;" and 600 heart specialists, gathered at a recent convention, called for a system of bike paths throughout the nation "as a major public service endeavor."

The bike paths at both parks will have a 16-foot right-of-way but only eight feet will be paved, either with black top or Macadam, the latter offering a rougher surface and showing more aggregate. The other eight foot dirt trail will continue to be used by equestrians at Coyote Hills and will be reserved for that purpose at Anthony Chabot.

Ultimately, the Coyote Hills trails may be linked up with the planned recreational trail up Niles Canyon and, perhaps, trail networks in Fremont and Newark. Bicycles can be ridden in either direction on the trails. Probably rest stops in turnouts will be provided.

After crossing the rustic bridge, the Anthony Chabot trail will intersect with an existing equestrian trail after which riders can gain access to a circulating road from the Golf Course parking lot to Redwood Road.

Del Valle Progressess

Working against a July 1 deadline when it must take over operation of Del Valle Recreational Area, EBRPD Directors is reviewing a final draft agreement with the state.

The District recently adopted the state's offer to operate the 3,445-acre park, which lies in the foothills 5 miles south of Livermore. By their action, they added the 16th operational park and the third largest in the system to the District, increasing the total acreage to 25,695. The 750-acre lake has 16 miles of shoreline.

General Manager Trudeau described the park as one "offering a quality and variety of experience not found elsewhere." He explained that a priority to acquire Calaveras Reservoir for operation from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission had been subordinated in favor of Del Valle. "We think this is a much better proposal at the moment," he said. "There are fewer restrictions, the cost is lower, and more and varied activities are possible."

EBRPD staffers reported, "In terms of urban recreation and scenic potential, we believe Del Valle is superior to its larger competitor, Lake Berryessa, and to the Sierra Foothill reservoirs such as Folsom and Pardee."

The staff report sees an "exciting potential" for a major trails system between Del Valle and Sunol Valley Regional Park, and from Del Valle along the creek to Shadow Cliffs Aquatic Park near Pleasanton. "Such a loop would obviously be an important addition to our master trail system." Conceivably, these trails might ultimately link up with a projected recreational trail running from Coyote Hills Regional Park on the bay up Niles Canyon to Sunol.

The big park will offer swimming, picnicking, fishing, day and overnight camping, nature study, boat rental, and restricted boating. There is a four-lane boat ramp.

PARK RANGERS EXCEL

Ranger Terry V. Spradlin of the EBRPD has graduated first in his class at the Northern California Peace Officers Academy, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill. He topped 31 other officers from 11 departments in the law enforcement courses offered by the 10-week school required by the State Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. A fellow EBRPD Ranger, Gerald J. Calkins, was elected class vice president by fellow officers.

WOMAN NATURALIST SPEAKS

An enthusiastic "out-of-doors girl" who's probably known to hundreds of youngsters and adults, too, has an out-of-doors job with EBRPD that gives her a chance to "open the eyes of those who look at so much but see so little..."

She's Mrs. Joanne Dean, 27, ex-school teacher and now Sunol Valley Regional Park Naturalist--the only woman naturalist in the Park District. She started out with the District as an intern in 1967 achieving an outstanding record.

Deeply conscientious about her job, which she considers "fun", Mrs. Dean observes: "Park visitors share one thing in common: the desire to enjoy themselves in unspoiled surroundings."

One of the most rewarding aspects of the job, Mrs. Dean says, are the letters she receives from youngsters she spoke to at orientation sessions and then took on a nature hike. A juvenile letter writer who was either naive or immune wrote, "The best part I think was when you told us about poison oak. Will you send me some poison oak?"

Perhaps more thoughtful were the remarks of two school children who wrote: "I like the park very much because it opens the door of nature so we can see all the beautiful things in the world like snakes, spiders, burids (sic) and hawks" and this: "I think I learned more than I could in 10 days in school."

AMA SPEAKS UP ON POLLUTION

The American Medical Association has issued a strong new statement on air pollution, urging industry and public utilities to proceed with "all possible speed" to reduce pollution.

The statement says:

"The AMA has a long record of concern for preserving environmental quality and in particular as it relates to health. The AMA sponsors a national annual congress on environmental health problems and a biennial air pollution medical research conference. From its long experience in this field, the AMA believes that sulfur dioxide and particulate matter in ambient air constitute a health hazard. Because power plants and industry are the principal sources of these pollutants, the AMA supports strong measures to curb the effluent from such sources and urges that industry and public utility companies proceed with all possible speed to reduce air pollution to levels acceptable to regulatory bodies."

The statement forcefully sets forth the medical profession's concern with, and knowledge of, air pollution. Physicians and others are urged to use the statement in their attempts to improve the quality of our environment.

--AMA News

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Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P. O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94596
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478
Artwork and Printing: Goldenberg, 727 Main St., Martinez, Calif., 94553, Telephone 228-1677

Two Park Council Meetings A Month

The Park Council will hold two meetings a month from now on: a program meeting and a board meeting.

Program meetings will take place on the first Thursday of each month at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. Starting time is 7:45 p.m. These meetings will feature interesting speakers, slide shows, and movies on conservation topics.

The first program meeting of the new Park Council season is scheduled for Thursday, October 1. Samuel Smoker, Director of the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum of Natural Sciences, Walnut Creek, will give an illustrated talk on "Conservation and Our Youth."

Mr. Smoker graduated from San Jose State College with a major in biological science. He served the National Audubon Society for 10 years in their camp program. His career also includes experience as a naturalist with the National Park Service and as a biology instructor at San Jose Junior College.

All members of the Park Council and their friends are invited to attend what is sure to be a pleasant, rewarding evening. Be there by 7:45 p.m.

Board meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every month at the new Walnut Creek Recreation Building in Heather Farms Park. These meetings, which are also open to Park Council members and other interested people, are intended to determine Council policy and methods of dealing with park and recreation issues. Meetings start at 7:45 p.m.

You will find the Recreation Building at 301 Sheppard Road, Walnut Creek. Turn north at the Shell Station on Ygnacio Valley Road, about 2 miles east of Walnut Creek.

Regional Park Budget Tightly Drawn

Allocations for 1970-71 for three Central Contra Costa county parks in the East Bay Regional Park District total $575,909. With the exception of carry-overs from 1969-70, they represent new appropriations and are contained in the two - county District's first consolidated budget calling for a total of $5,974,177 for the new fiscal year.

It was described as a "tightly drawn, carefully scrutinized economy budget" to be financed by a tax rate of 10 cents per $100 of assessed valuation.

The equalized tax rate necessary to raise the overall sum required will be 9.8 cents per $100 of assessed valuation in Alameda county and 10.3 cents in Contra Costa County. The variance in the two rates is due to differing methods of property assessment used in the two counties. Combined, taxes levied by the two counties equal the District's 10-cent rate.

The 1969-70 budget totaled $7,263,505; but comparison might be misleading, since $968,985 in reserves was used to fund it.

EBRPD General Manager Richard C. Trudeau again pointed out that parks operation and maintenance came close to consuming all projected tax revenues in this fiscal year; they will exceed such revenue in 1971-72; and "under these circumstances, we have no choice but to seek a tax increase and go to the voters for their support..." He added that soon no funds will remain to underwrite acquisition of new parklands, facilities, and services.

He explained further that $1,600,000 in departmental requests were trimmed from the proposed budget. At the same time, requests from park users and other interested outside groups for additional expenditures totaled an estimated $2,100,000. A total of $176,000 in departmental funds for 1969-70 was returned to the general fund.

Trudeau provided a rough geographical breakdown of the budget showing approximately $4,900,000

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being allocated to Alameda county and nearly $2,600,000 for Contra Costa County.

A further analysis, Trudeau explained, shows nearly $2,700,000 being allocated to Southern Alameda county; about $370,000 to Eastern Contra Costa County; approximately $660,000 to Central Contra Costa County; and about $450,000 for Western Contra Costa County.

Land acquisition for the current fiscal year is projected at $555,100--about half the 1969-70 figure. Other major expenditures include daily park operations, maintenance, and equipment, $4,185,523; new structures and improvements, $416,592; and debt service, $371,691.

Revenue figures include $4,236,534 in taxes from local property owners, including $2,577,391 from Alameda county and $1,659,143 from Contra Costa County; interest, $110,000; aid from other governmental agencies, expected to become available during this fiscal year, $870,774, of which $293,102 is from the state's general fund for the homeowners' and business inventory exemption; and snackstand sales, $213,667.

Approval of funds for the proposed Coal Mines Regional Park near Antioch and Pittsburg has already been given by the Directors, and $650,000 is assured. The sum of $250,000 was earmarked from State Park Bond funds after the Board approved the necessary contract with the State Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition, EBRPD had $200,000 in earmarked funds for the project and is adding another $200,000 in this fiscal year.

The Board has also appropriated $60,000 for land acquisition at the water-oriented Arroyo de Cerro Regional Recreation Area near Walnut Creek.

Included in the budget are $50,000 for a Park District Master Plan, $25,000 for trails, and a reserve for "opportunity acquisitions" relating to new lands, $270,000. Also reviewed and approved was a $10,000 item for a swimming beach without lifeguards at Del Valle Regional Park.

Following is a park-by-park breakdown of budget appropriations:

Las Trampas Regional Park--Maintenance and operation budget, $2775.

Briones Regional Park--Development carry-over, $478,000; maintenance and operation budget, $35,134.

In addition, each park and each county and region within the county shares in such expenditures as the $389,575 for public safety (Rangers and firemen) and the allocation of $398,549 for the five maintenance crews covering sanitation, roads and trails, landscaping, picnic area rehabilitation, and mowing and spraying.

BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR PARK FUNDS UNLESS

A somber view of the East Bay Regional Park District's financial outlook is taken by General Manager Richard C. Trudeau in his recent budget message. Forecasting that operational costs alone will exceed tax revenues in 1971-72, he sees an urgent need for a tax increase.

The occasion of the message was the presentation of a proposed "economy budget" of $5,945,859 to the EBRPD Directors for review.

From its founding in 1934 until 1964, the Park District operated on a modest maximum levy of five cents per $100 of assessed valuation. In the latter year, the legislature granted a five-cent "override" bringing the total tax to 10 cents which has recently been made permanent. The District now has 22 parks aggregating more than 25,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Trudeau observed, for the first time, operation, maintenance, and administration costs alone will "come close to equaling" tax revenues. Unless new revenues are found, "The District must, in future years, severely curtail expenditures for new parklands and new facilities and services.

"Under these circumstances, we have no choice but to seek a tax increase of reasonable proportions - and to go to the voters for their support soon for such a tax increase."

Trudeau explained that, unlike business or most governmental agencies where prices or taxes can be raised if necessary, EBRPD cannot increase its 10-cent levy per $100 of assessed valuation in Alameda and Contra Costa counties except through legislative approval or by going to the voters for the necessary sanction.

Against the background of this money bind, Trudeau explained, "at no time within recent memory has the District received as many urgent requests for additional projects and services as we have had during the past year. Since most of these requests are valid and we are sympathetic to them, this has presented a vexing problem."

Trudeau added that only two new permanent employees will be added to the EBRPD force during the year "although we have added five new regional parks and open space areas to the District." More seasonal employees are being used; travel expenses and overtime have been cut.

COYOTE HILLS AND LAS TRAMPAS MAY GET MORE FUNDS

Application for $70,500 in unused State Park Bond funds to be used at Coyote Hills and Las Trampas Regional Parks has been approved by the EBRPD Directors. In addition, the Board approved a 10

year "no cost" lease agreement with the state covering 80 acres of "open space" land east of and behind the California School for the Blind and Deaf in Berkeley. It has an unobstructed view of the bay.

The Board also was informed that EBRPD would participate in the Richmond New Careers Program with the view of training two minority-race Ranger Cadets for possible ultimate employment as full-fledged Park Rangers.

Mrs. Meda Soares, Chairman of the Alameda County Parks Advisory Commission, advised that the sum of $44,200 is available from the surplus State Park Bond funds for allocation to Alameda county. Normally, these moneys must be used for capital development, but the Park District will explore the possiblility of using them for a park Master Plan.

EBRPD General Manager Richard C. Trudeau said the Alameda County Parks Advisory Commission has already voted in favor of applying the funds to Coyote Hills and added that the park "was one of the principal projects funded in Alameda county from the 1964 state park bond funds and is thus a logical candidate for these surplus funds. . ."

The sum of $26,300 in unused state funds is eligible for allocation to Contra Costa county. John E. Hendrickson, Executive Secretary to the Contra Costa County Recreation and Natural Resources Commission, reported that both the Commission and the Board of Supervisors have gone on record favoring the expenditure at Las Trampas Regional Park. Hopefully, further land acquisition may be approved there.

"In this event," Trudeau said, "we anticipate that we will be able to get additional matching funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)."

Under terms of the lease with the state, EBRPD will retain the 80 acres of steep Oakland-Berkeley hilside--which has a market value of $250,000--largely as "open space." However, Hulet Hornbeck, EBRPD Chief of Land Acquisition and Management, said the District has a responsibility to provide a minimal trail system, some picnic sites, and sanitary facilities.

Transfer of the land was made possible through legislation introduced by Assemblyman Don Mulford (R., Oakland) in 1965.

Mulford attended the meeting and congratulated the Park District Directors "on moving ahead with this important project. It would have been a tragedy indeed if this open space had been lost to public use. You have done a good thing."

EBRPD Director Paul E. Harberts, Berkeley, praised Mulford for his long-range planning "to save this very desirable piece of open space for the future."

Even Mulford's political opponent, Kenneth Meade, who also attended, declared "I want to congratulate both your Board and Mr. Mulford. He is my opponent but I want to pay tribute where tribute is due. . ."

If you want to make reservations for group picnics, youth group overnight camping, or use of Tilden Park's Brazil Building, the new EBRPD number to call is 531-9043. Telephone service is available from 9 a.m. to 4p.m. on week days with a lunch break from 12 to 1. The regular Park District number, 531-9300, is still the proper one to call for information, assistance, or brochures.

EXPLORER POST ESTABLISHED

EBRPD Rangers will sponsor a new Law Enforcement Explorer Post for young men ages 16-20, according to William F. Bartlett, head of the Rangers' Juvenile Division.

Purpose of the organization will be to give the Explorers an insight into the many fields of law enforcement and assist them in qualifying for a career in the field, Bartlett said.

A maximum of 40 young men will be accepted for the troop, with qualifications based on school record, good health, physical condition, and citizenship.
Further details are available by telephoning Bartlett at 531-9300, extension 28.

MONEY ASSURED FOR COAL MINES PARK

Directors of EBRPD have voted to approve a contract with the State Department of Parks and Recreation that will guarantee $250,000 in state funds for acquisition of land in the coal mines region of Contra Costa County in the next fiscal year.

The state funds will bring to $650,000 the amount allocated for purchase of land in this historic area. EBRPD set aside $100,000 in 1968 and an equal amount in 1969 for the proposed park, and has included $200,000 in the proposed 1970-71 budget for land purchase.

The Park District has been trying to acquire land in the area since 1964, but earlier efforts were thwarted by disputes over ownership of the core area of the proposed park. Litigation over the 320 acres near the center of the proposed park "could be very protracted," according to EBRPD spokesman Hulet Hornbeck. With the guarantee of state funds, however, the District can begin negotiations for the purchase of private lands needed to complete the proposed 850-acre park.

NO On Las Trampas Highway

EBRPD Directors recently heard a report from Hulet Hornbeck on an old county road easement through Las Trampas Regional Park. According to a news release from the District, the issue of the easement had been raised in a letter by Maynard Munger, Lafayette. Munger claimed that a major highway facility was being planned from the end of Bollinger Canyon Road through the new park to St. Mary's College, Moraga, and demanded a strong resolution of opposition from the EBRPD board.

Hornbeck pointed out that such an easement has existed since 1946, but the county states it has no interest whatever in building such a road. He explained that the present highway plans for that general area envision a state freeway, about a mile north of the park boundary, connecting the proposed Shepherd Canyon freeway in Moraga with Highway 680 at Alamo.

Clean Water Bond Issue Coming Up

Voters in eight East Bay cities will be asked. on Nov. 3, to approve a $60-million "clean water" bond issue, according to an announcement by the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The ballot measure was authorized by directors of the Utility District. Bond proceeds would be used to construct advanced sewage treatment facilities at EBMUD's existing plant near the east end of the Bay Bridge. The project is needed to meet higher Federal and State water quality standards for San Francisco Bay.

MALLARD SLOUGH TO BE A PARK?

Negotiations with the Contra Costa County Water District aimed at creating a 39-acre waterfront recreation area at Mallard Slough on the Sacramento River at West Pittsburg have been authorized by the EBRPD board.

The Park District will seek a no-cost management agreement with the Water District to provide a compact park intended mainly for bank fishing, picnicking, bird watching, and similar activities. Little capital development would be necessary. It would consist largely of building a pathway along the shore and constructing picnic sites and piers (or platforms) for fishing.

BICYCLE TRAILS NOW OPEN

Construction and paving have been completed on EBRPD's two new bicycle trails and they are now open to the public. One trail was build at Lake Chabot in Anthony Chabot Regional Park near San Leandro, and the other at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont.

The Chabot trail extends along the southeast shore of the lake from the marina, a distance of about 2 miles. The trail at Coyote Hills begins at the parking lot and loops through the park for 2 1/2 miles. It is a multi-use trail with provision for horses and hikers also.

The parks are open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

HIKE INTO LAS TRAMPAS

Hike into Las Trampus Park, beautiful fall colors, Sunday, October 11. Meet at 9:30 in the Alamo Safeway parking lot.

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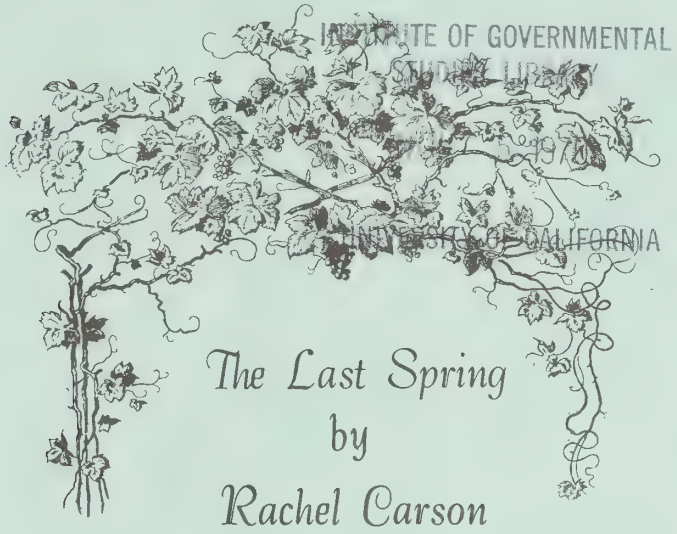
PARK COUNCIL NEWS

VOL. 70 NO. 8 NOVEMBER 1970

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94596
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, Calif., 94526, Telephone 837-3478
Artwork and Printing: Goldenberg, 727 Main St., Martinez, Calif., 94553, Telephone 228-1677



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PARK COUNCIL AND AUDUBON SOCIETY TO FEATURE SENATOR NEJEDLY AND HISTORIC FILM WITH RACHEL CARSON

On Thursday, November 5, the Park Council will hold a joint meeting with the Audubon Society to present a most unusual program. This is not a Board of Directors meeting, and no business will be conducted. Instead, this is a program meeting open to the general membership of both organizations. Announcements, if any, will be very brief so that the entire meeting can be devoted to the planned program.

Senator Nejedly will speak on the accomplishments and failures of the recent legislative session in Sacramento in the field of conservation legislation. He will also discuss the prospects for the future, and suggest what you, as an ecology-conscious citizen, can do to help brighten the picture in the next session.

The film to be shown is "Rachel Carson's Last Spring". It is a 45-minute documentary feature produced for TV viewing shortly before Miss Carson's death. It covers the debate over the use of insecticides, whose effects at that time could only be conjectured. Eric Sevareid, as moderator, interviewed Rachel Carson, the pesticide industry's scientists, government scientists, and administration officials of the time. It must be seen to be believed.

So, set aside this date: Thursday, November 5, at 7:45 p.m. in the Concord Public Library meeting room on Salvio Street in Concord. Please pass the word around to other members. We want to make the general membership programs as interesting and timely as possible, and we think we're off to a fine start. But we do need your support.

--Manny Lindner
Program Director

PARK COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

We hope you agree that the Contra Costa Park Council is a most necessary and worthwhile part of Contra Costa life. It consists of a rather limited number of people working selflessly for the betterment of life in the county. To accomplish all that needs to be done, this dedicated group needs help.

Specifically, we need help in two areas. First, we need members who will pitch in to help us work on the ever-mounting environmental problems that surround us. We need help all the way from typing and stamp-licking to people willing to take on the responsibility of key committee positions. Second, we need memberships (and contributions) to keep the Park Council afloat financially.

A little plain talk about money may be in order. The Park Council volunteers--we have no paid staff--donate much of their time, and they contribute things like telephone tolls and gasoline. But to defray the cost of this Park Council News, stamps, stationery, and all the rest of the unavoidable organization expenses, they need financial help. The only source of this money is your membership dues and contributions.

Printing and mailing Park Council News costs nearly $100 a month, and the minimum membership fee of $2.00 barely covers this expense. The conference last spring was not intended to be a fund raising event, nor was it. We just broke even. Since our last membership effort, our treasury has gradually shrunk until now it is critically small. We've simply got to raise more money. We rely completely on your generosity in subscribing to the Council and making additional contributions.

The envelope enclosed with this issue of Park Council News is put there only once a year. Please take this opportunity to join an organization whose effort is vital to the quality of Contra Costa life. Your donations are tax-deductible.

--Al Burton
President

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President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716.

PARK DEDICATION ORDINANCE

Last spring, the Board of Supervisors referred the drafting of a Contra Costa County park dedication ordinance to the Planning Department. If adopted, the ordinance will require the giving of land, or money in lieu thereof, as a condition of approval for new subdivision developments in the county.

This ordinance and the accompanying recreational element of the county master plan had two hearings before the Planning Commission and was adopted by that body. The final step in the adoption of the ordinance will be adoption by the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors will hold a public hearing to discuss this ordinance at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17. As many people as possible should make a point of attending this hearing to show their interest and encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt the ordinance without any weakening or substantial modification.

LAS TRAMPAS AUTUMN HIKE A SUCCESS

About 60 people braved the rigors of a balmy, sunny Sunday morning on Oct. 11 to hike into the Nordstrom Acquisition of Las Trampas Regional Park from Bollinger Canyon. Highlight of the climb was the probable sighting of a pair of golden eagles. After lunch in a remote setting, the hikers climbed around the rocks of one of the peaks to admire the view of the San Ramon Valley and Mt. Diablo, or to look down on the Eugene O'Neill home and the Miller Ranch.

—Manny Lindner

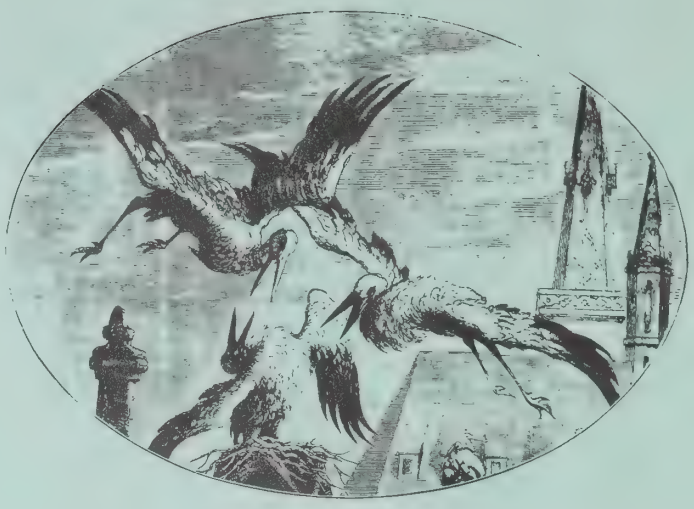
WEST COUNTY MAY GET MAJOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Huscicon Twig has revealed that a HUD-funded study group is investigating the possibility of setting up a marshland environmental education center and overnight facility at the mouths of Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks on San Pablo Bay. BCDC has designated 215 acres of marshland there as wildlife preserves. The use of intervening marshes on undeveloped industrial land for field study would bring the area of the education complex to 325 acres.

A system of streamside trails linking parks in the Berkeley Hills with the Bay via Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks is under study by EBRPD.

EBRPD APPOINTS NEW CHIEF PLANNER

Lewis Crutcher, A.I.A., who operated his own architectural firm in Portland, Ore., for nine years and was Director of Planning and Research for the Minneapolis Park System, has been appointed Chief of the EBRPD's Plans, Design and Construction Department. His salary will be $18,000 a year.



He succeeds Walter J. Toney, who resigned to become Director of the City of Berkeley's Recreation and Park Department.

Crutcher received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Washington at Seattle and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Architecture from the Claremont Graduate School. During his 20-year career, he has been a university professor and a lecturer, and on five different occasions has received Awards of Merit or Commendation from the Oregon Chapter or Council of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA's Portland chapter.

While in Minneapolis, he headed the Parkway Green Belt System and worked on a number of river-front park studies, the plans for the North Mississippi Park, and an inter-agency river-front study. More recently, he was associated with Sasaki-Walker of Sausalito as project manager, where he planned the half-a-million-dollar development in the north end of Briones Regional Park now in its initial phase. One of his projects was the Squaw Valley general plan.

MORE MONEY FOUND FOR MAJOR TRAIL

In adopting a $5,974,177 budget and setting a 10-cent tax rate, EBRPD Directors "found" an additional $33,000 for the Alameda Creek Trails project. The District had planned to budget $75,000 in the 1971-72 fiscal year for the 11.75-mile twin Alameda Creek trails project, but the U.S. Corps of Engineers explained the money was needed in this fiscal year and required matching funds of $142,000. EBRPD provided the additional $33,000 in this manner: $20,818 in additional state funds from the homeowners' and business inventory exemptions; $4,600 through an adjustment in working capital; $10,000 additional in interest; and $20,000 by deferring an administration building annex.

The balance of the $55,418 was allocated to the Directors' fund for the expenses of conducting an election in case EBRPD should seek a tax increase next year.

The remainder of the creek trail fund will be provided through in-lieu lands from the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

PARK ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED

EBRPD has announced an eight-point program to help the environment.

It will continue to evaluate the use and application of all toxic chemicals for controlling insect, animal, or plant pests and water treatment materials, to determine whether they have long-lasting harmful effects.

All redwood lumber used in picnic tables will be "re-cycled" through planing and resurfacing following damage or vandalism.

Wherever aesthetically and economically possible, all electrical lines in parks will be undergrounded.

More of the District's automobile and truck fleet will be fueled with low-pollution propane if the "pilot" program with two EBRPD cars proves successful.

Phosphate-free soaps and detergents will be used in all clean-up operations as the products become available.

Paper cups will be substituted for non-bio-degradable styrofoam cups where possible. Employees are encouraged to bring their own ceramic cups.

Recycling of all waste paper including telephone books through donation to the Boy Scouts or similar groups will be continued.

In addition, the Park District is discussing with Boy Scout Councils in Alameda and Contra Costa counties the possibility of placing wire bins in strategic spots in all EBRPD parks so that aluminum beer cans and soft drink cans could be deposited. Boy Scouts making regular pickups of the cans for recycling could use the revenue for scout functions.

FIFTY-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR DEL VALLE PARK

EBRPD Board of Directors has approved a 50-year operating agreement with the state for 3,455-acre Del Valle Regional Park, supplanting an interim 60-day pact. Attendance at the park, which lies 5 miles south of Livermore, is projected at 120,000 through June 30, 1971. Key attractions at the big park are its five-mile lake for fishing, boating, and swimming, plus overnight camping and other usual park amenities.

Important provisions in the 50-year pact with the state are: ***EBRPD has "almost unrestricted rights of termination" of the operating agreement, subject only to 12 months notice. ***The state will invest "at least $1,800,000 for capital improvements over a three-year period beginning in the next fiscal year." ***The state will maintain "full lake level" from May 15 to September 15 of each year through 1985 and it recognizes "that the primary purpose of this property is for public recreation."

UPPER KELLOGG PROGRESSES

EBRPD Directors have adopted a resolution of intent to enter into an agreement with the Contra Costa County Water District to operate the recreational features of the proposed $28,000,000 multi-purpose "Upper Kellogg Project" in southeastern Contra Costa County. A 175-foot earthfill dam, rerouting a portion of Vasco Road, would create a 1500-acre reservoir with a 14.1-mile shoreline about 5 miles southwest of Byron and 6-1/4 miles south of Brentwood.

Including surrounding rolling hill country, about two miles north of the Alameda-Contra Costa county line, the modified Kellogg Project, once known as Los Vaqueros would create a park varying in area from 6,252 to 7,390 acres depending on final expenditure concepts.

COAL MINES PARK NEARS REALITY

In the wake of an Interior Department Hearing Examiner's decision that 28 "specialty sand" claims for some 240 acres of land in the old Nortonville-Somersville coal mining area are null and void, EBRPD Directors are restating their desire to acquire the land for a park.

"It has been more than several years since our application for this land was filed," Hulet C. Hornbeck said in referring to the Bureau of Land Management acreage that the Park District may be able to buy for $2.50 an acre. All told, EBRPD may pick up a "bargain" in 360 acres since Steven Kosanke has already relinquished 120 acres as not necessary to his purposes. (Kosanke filed claims in 1963 on what he said was valuable silica sand.)

Hearing Examiner Graydon E. Holt handed down his decision in the case on September 16. The usual 30-day Interior Department review period wexpired·e October 15. Kosanke, however, has until November 14 to appeal the decision to the Interior's Board of Land Appeals. Should he be rebuffed there, he can take the case directly to Secretary Walter Hickel.

Hornbeck pointed out that, immediately following Holt's ruling, BLM classified the acreage for recreational use under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; hence, it is important for EBRPD to restate its intention to Hickel to create a Coal Mines Area Regional Park on the acreage. The BLM lands would form a nucleus for a larger park, the balance of the acreage being purchased from private land owners.

PARK DIRECTOR HONORED

For his "presidential leadership...in the context of environmental planning," EBRPD Director Fred C. Blumberg, of Lafayette, has been awarded the president's plaque as head of the Commissioner-Board Members Branch of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Blumberg, who has just been elected to a three-year term as a Trustee of the NRPA, was cited for his organization and development of the California Association of Recreation and Park Board Members and the fact that "he provided excellent communication of the goals and services of the NRPA.... The year's significant growth is indicative of his presidential leadership."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 5 - Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Senator John Nejedly speaks to Park Council and Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on successes and failures of conservation legislation in Sacramento. Also, outstanding historic film, "Rachel Carson's Last Spring." Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. Everyone very welcome. Bring your family and friends.

November 7 - Saturday, 5-7 p.m. Huscicon's Fourth Annual Wine Tasting, Holiday Inn, 915 West Cutting Blvd., Richmond. Concannon wines and Marin French Cheese Co. cheese. Great fun. Great value -- only $2 a person. Phone 234-6401 or 235-6347 for tickets.

December 20 - Sunday. Mt. Diablo Audubon Society Christmas bird count. Phone Lynn Farrar (283-3938) to volunteer.

POINT RICHMOND PARK ADVANCES

Hulet Hornbeck, EBRPD chief of Land Acquisition and Management, reported that funds to purchase land from Santa Fe Railway for the Point Richmond park have been placed in escrow; also, final Santa Fe approval of the language in several "delicate passages" of the deeds may be forthcoming soon.

TILDEN GOLF CONCESSION DISPUTED, REAFFIRMED

Director George C. Roeding, Jr., Fremont, says that he is withdrawing his opposition to a proposal to lease the EBRPD's Tilden Golf Course providing the lessee "is able to give sufficient guarantees or bond" to carry out the provisions of the contract.

Roeding earlier had joined Director Paul J. Badger, Pinole, in opposing a motion that reaffirmed the Board's intention to proceed with the lease plan. The course would continue to be operated as a public facility.

Roeding's announcement followed a heated exchange in which Paul E. Harberts, Board Treasurer, Berkeley, charged that Badger was "saving nickels while throwing away dollars" in his stand on the golf course issue.

Badger, during his minority report on adoption of the budget, noted that he was "basically sure that some amount should have been provided for improvements in case we could not find a suitable concessionaire." The Pinole director has consistently opposed any lease of the Tilden Course and has held out for continued operation by EBRPD.

"I am aware and appreciate the fact that Mr. Badger is going to stand for office again this fall," Harberts retorted, "but I find it difficult to reconcile his budgetary concern with the position he took on the golf course. The record clearly shows that he may well have cost this District more than $700,000 in improvements and concession fees because of his activities in the matter."

Harberts explained that his figures were based on an estimated $350,000 in capital improvements and $350,000 in lease proceeds during the 25-year life of the proposed agreement.

Director Marlin W. Haley, Hayward, added that "it is inconceivable that we could lose so much money" at the course.

Roeding, in explaining his request to change his vote, noted that "since we are so short of funds to place the Tilden Golf Course in a satisfactory playing condition, I believe we have no other alternative but to lease the course to private interests... if certain conditions are met."

The action left Badger as the sole member of the Board opposed to the lease plan. The proposal has also been endorsed by the grand juries of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

OUTING - Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco Bay Model (Sausalito). Saturday, November 14. Meet there at 12:30 p.m. Tours start at 1:00 p.m. For additional information call Tom Crittendon, 754-3410, after 6 p.m.

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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

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Ferdinand S. Ruth To Speak At Dec. 3 Program Meeting

"Where are we going and how do we get there?" is the subject of the talk to be given by Ferd Ruth at the Dec. 3 program meeting at 7:45 p.m. in the Concord Library meeting room.

Man constantly demands an ever-higher living standard---more leisure time, more and bigger cars, a second home, more luxuries, more appliances, and much more power to keep them all humming. Toss in one more ingredient--more and more people--and what happens in non-expandable space?

Mr. Ruth, eminent authority in the field of ecotactics, is well-known to Park Council members as a fascinating lecturer who "tells it like it is". At the Dec. 3 meeting, you too will have a chance to state your views, since the speaker will welcome discussion and audience participation.

Bring your friends and give them the opportunity to hear one of the most respected voices in the East Bay conservation movement.

Light refreshments will be served, but they are not guaranteed to do much for you if you've missed your dinner.

Mark the date on your calendar. See you December 3!

Nejedly Tells How To Win Conservation Battle

"It's up to you, you, and you," was the gist of Senator John Nejedly's message to an overflow crowd at a combined Park Council and Mt. Diablo Audubon Society meeting in Concord on Nov. 5. His talk followed a showing of the now-classic CBS documentary film, "The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson."

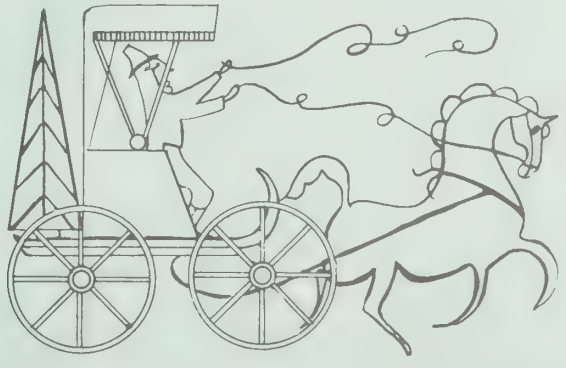
The senator--known and appreciated as a tough fighter on the conservation side--analyzed the successes and failures of environmental legislation to date in Sacramento. He attributed the few successes mainly to the pressure of public opinion, without which a conservation-minded legislator cannot do much good on environmental issues.

"The Legislature," he said, "is a lonely place... real lonely." A legislator must have public support if he is to overcome the formidable opposition of immensely powerful groups such as the "highway lobby", whose recent expenditure of more than $1 million killed Proposition 18. Passage of this proposition would have permitted the diversion of some highway-user tax revenues to purposes of ecological benefit.

According to Nejedly, Proposition 1 passed because of massive support by the people. A similar demonstration of public concern saved BCDC when the Legislature was about to let it die at the bidding of the Bay-fill lobby.

Nejedly traced the history of environmental legislation during the 8 years since publication of Rachel Carson's book, "The Silent Spring". Despite all the publicity about pesticides and pollution, there is still no effective federal control of DDT. Yet, we cannot simply blame industry and agriculture for the pollution problem. We all make our contribution by using pesticides and putting irritants into the environment. As one commentator has expressed it, "We have met the enemy, and the enemy is us."

In Contra Costa County, plans for the San Luis Drain brought the pesticide question to public attention. The first expert report on the matter focused on the great harm to be expected from the discharge of pesticide run-off into San Francisco Bay; but this aspect was largely ignored.



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President: Alvin A. Burton, 151 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, California, 94598, Telephone 934-5716.

Senator Nejedly reacted to this danger by introducing SB-1430 in 1969 to prohibit the use of DDT in agriculture. The Legislature rejected the bill. Nejedly explained why.

First, legislators at that time were, like most members of the public, ignorant as to the magnitude of the pollution problem. They completely failed to understand what was involved. (Since then, the press has done an excellent job of education, and no one today can claim ignorance.)

Second, legislators were sensitive to the charge that a politician expressing environmental concern does so for political reasons.

Third, conservation legislation runs contrary to a long socio-economic tradition of private enterprise in which cost-benefit relationships have been all-important. The environment in this philosophy is a garbage pit of unlimited capacity.

Fourth, the "Establishment" demonstrated great obstinancy against any change in the orderly process by which natural resources are converted into products and thence into profits.

People generally resist change, since the established order tends to represent security and stability. In this respect, industrialists and legislators are no different from the populace.

Nejedly pointed out that simplistic solutions are not regarded with favor by the Legislature. One example is the unsuccessful Petris bill to ban automobiles in California by 1975. Sophisticated bills also fare badly because of the confusion brought about by conflicting expert testimony. A recent example is the bill to eliminate lead from gasoline. The easiest answer to difficult problems is to do nothing.

Senator John Nejedly emphasized that his critical remarks should not be taken as a rejection of the democratic process. On the contrary, he said, "I have a tremendous faith in government, though I see a tremendous need for improvement." As to where the improvement will come from, he stressed that the essential element is people: you, you, and you.

The new Legislature is better and more responsive than ever to environmental concerns. Prospects for conservation measures are improving all the time, and they will improve even more if the public increases its pressure on politicians.

Answering questions from the audience, Nejedly said that an open space bill stands a much better chance of success next year than did SB-1400, the Marks BAROSC bill. As for regional government, the senator felt that existing agencies would be given one more chance to work regionally and effectively; but "if the vacuum continues to exist," the Legislature will act.

ECOLOGY CLASS AT ROSSMOOR

You are invited to enroll in an adult division class entitled, "Ecology-California Water Problems" to be given by Dr. H. Russel Hulett, biochemist and vice-chairman of the Stanford Committee for Environmental Information, at Rossmoor, Classroom one, Gateway Clubhouse, Thursday evenings at seven, beginning January 7. Information, call Otto Rhoades, 939-2712.

YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN THE FRAY

Involvement of high school students in the battle for environmental sanity is increasing rapidly. Here is just one progress report from Nancy McCoy, President of Pleasant Hill High School Ecology Club:

The Pleasant Hill High School Ecology Club is trying to involve as many people as possible. We have eleven sub-committees which are: Aluminum Can Recycling, Organic Gardening, Biking, Hiking, Park and Land Development, Paper Recycling, Liason with groups such as the Sierra Club, Liason with other schools, Political Action, Letter Writing, Population, and Inside School Publicity.

The Aluminum Can Recycling Group has collected almost 1,000 cans (plus scraps) in about 1-1/2 months. When we get out proposed bins in the community and as we get more publicity, both in the school and in the community, we expect to get more.

All the money the Ecology Club raises will be split 50/50 with one half going for expenses, and one half for Las Trampas Regional Park. At the end of the year, the excess in our expense money will be donated to Las Trampas.

The Organic Gardening group is going to continue the organic garden started last year by the school's Ecology Group.

The Biking group does considerably more than go on rides. Carole Damgaard, Judy Kutulas, and Nancy McCoy have been keeping a daily account of the numbers of bikes and cars in the student parking lot. Ever since the census was started, bicycles have outnumbered cars. Last year the average number of bicycles in a two month period was thirty-three. To cut down on bike theft, and thus promote people to ride their bikes, members Glenna Rhodes and Nancy McCoy and teacher-sponsor, Mr. Hipple, requested of the PHHS Parents Club that they provide $200.00 to buy the material for bike racks. The Parents Club agreed and currently one of the school's metal shop classes is making the racks.

Dennis Honda and Matt Simmons have been appointed to the Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation District board, and other students from the Ecology group will be appointed to other positions in the city of PH's Council. Already Dennis and Matt have gotten the board's support in building a park from an empty field. Within the year, we should have the park completed.

The Paper Recycling group is currently planning a paper drive. Mrs. London, a biology teacher at the school, is having one of her classes empty each classroom's paper recycling box weekly. The paper goes into the Parent Club's bin. In approximately three weeks this standard size bin has been completely filled. The efforts of the Paper Recycling group were instrumental in the Parents Club's donation of the money for the bike racks.

Headed by Barry Cole, the group for liason with outside conservation groups has had people joining the Sierra Club. Other members or teachers are attending the Sierra Club's Conservation Committee in Concord, the Contra Costa Park Council's meetings, and miscellaneous meetings such as the public hearing on EBMUD's master plan.

Liaison between schools is just getting on its feet, but chairman Coralyn Hadden is making plans to contact other schools and help them establish ecology groups. Already members from other schools in the area have been invited to attend our weekly steering committee meetings.

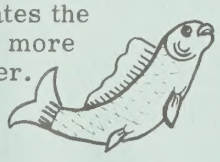
Our population group is just being started, but chairman Betsy Hilton is planning to emphasize the population problem and what people can do to help.

Although glass recycling is being handled by another school club, our Ecology group was instrumental in getting it started. As soon as the bins are up, we will be collecting flint, amber, and green glass.

Another aspect of our Ecology group is the Chemistry-Ax class. As a part of the class the students are expected to do an independent study project. This year the category of subjects includes ecology. Dennis Honda is planning and going through the red tape of making an empty field into a park for his project. Carole Damgaard, Judy Kutulas, and Nancy McCoy are doing a detailed study on what the housewife can do to help ecology for their project. Their work will probably include the fields of packaging, recycling, waste disposal, and cleaning agents in regard to water pollution.

ANGLER'S DREAM COMES TRUE

Nearly 200, 000 trout or catfish weighing about 68, 000 pounds have been planted in EBRPD's Lake Chabot, Contra Loma Regional Park, and Don Castro Regional Recreation Area since record keeping started in 1966. And now the District is embarked on an "intense five-point water quality and urban fishery management program." The underwater aerator or "bubble machine" at Lake Chabot which oxygenates and circulates the water has proved so successful that three more units will be placed in operation this winter.



EBRPD SEEKS TAX INCREASE

The EBRPD Directors have unanimously voted to seek an increase in the property tax rate limit for the District, not to exceed 15 cents.

The decision came after promises of support were offered by several civic leaders, including Supervisors Joseph Bort of Alameda County and James Kenny, Contra Costa County.

Bort, urging quick action by the District so that funds would be available to preserve open space lands before they are sold for other purposes, suggested that the Directors make an effort to have the tax rate limit raised by legislative action before going to the expense of an election. He explained that an election could cost the District more than $150, 000. Kenny said he offered his enthusiastic and wholehearted support for the increase. Also attending the meeting were Robert Hoyer, mayor of Clayton, and John Thune, director of the Oakland-Alameda YMCA, representing a group of civic leaders who have endorsed the tax increase.

EBRPD's original property tax rate limit, approved in 1934, was 5 cents per $100 of assessed valuation, which was increased to 10 cents on a temporary basis in 1964 and permanently established at that level this year. The proposed increase would put the District's limit at 25 cents per $100. District financial projections indicate that the present tax rate will be insufficient after fiscal year 1971-72, with more than $6 million in deficits in the next ten years, even without additional land acquisitions or development.

In other action, the Board appointed Gary Tate as the official District representative to the East Bay Trails Council, and named Hulet C. Hornbeck as EBRPD advisor to the group.

AD AGENCY GIVES FREE SERVICE TO PARK DISTRICT

Directors of EBRPD have accepted an unusual offer from an Oakland advertising and public relations firm to act as voluntary consultants to the District. Resor, Anderson, Hermansky, Musson Advertising of Oakland has agreed to offer the services of two of the firm's vice presidents, Richard Musson and Mary H. French, for objective consulting and creative services.

James C. Resor, president of RAHM, told board members that his agency has "felt for some time that we must find a means whereby a meaningful contribution of our time and talents can be made to the community." He explained that the firm's desire to become involved in activities related to the environment was a prime consideration in this offer, which will amount to an annual contribution valued at between $15, 000 and $20, 000.

"We are all very aware of the District's dedication to the preservation of open space lands, wilderness areas, and trail systems for the enjoyment of all people for generations to come," Resor said. "Additionally, we are most impressed with the District's progressive attitude toward providing for the recreational needs of special interest groups."

Resor explained that his firm's art and production departments will assist the District in preparation of the graphic approach to all printed materials, television, and radio public service. materials in addition to the consulting service.

EBRPD General Manager Richard C. Trudeau, commenting on the offer, told the board that to his knowledge this was the first time an agency had approached a public agency with a proposal to help in a volunteer capacity. He said that RAHM's offer could be of benefit to the District in many ways and would save the District money by expanding the capabilities of the present staff.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 3	PARK COUNCIL PROGRAM MEETING. Ferdinand Ruth speaks on "Where are we going and how do we get there?" Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, 7:45 p.m. Everyone welcome.
December 11	SAVE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING. Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Outstanding photographic exhibit, "Save the Bay for Life." Christmas punch served from 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.
December 17	DEADLINE for January Park Council News copy. Contributors please note.
December 20	AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Phone Lynn Farrar (283-3938) to volunteer.
December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
January 1	and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SPOONS TO PLOWSHARES REVEALED

How a five-year-old boy melted his mother's pewter spoons in 1770 to cast a small primordial plow, harnessed it to the family cat, and got a whipping for his pains is told in a new EBRPD booklet, "Old California Farm Machinery".

But the Colonial-era boy perservered--even cutting from turnips and potatoes models of the cast-iron plow he some day hoped to perfect--and finally, in 1819, obtained a patent on that most basic piece of farm machinery.

The booklet, written by Mrs. Eleanor Michel, deals mainly with Tilden Regional Park's "Little Farm" and its educational collection of old farm machinery. Some examples of machinery on exhibit are a plow, drag and disc harrow, walking and riding cultivator, hayrake, broadcast seeder, ensilage cutter, drag slip, rock sled or stone boat, grain drill, and manure spreader.

"The Little Farm" collection lacks a mowing machine and harvester, which Mrs. Michel hopes will be donated some day to round out the educational exhibit. (How about it, Park Council members and friends?---Ed.)

Cost of the booklet, obtainable at the Tilden Nature Area and the EBRPD Headquarters, is 10 cents. According to Christian Nelson, EBRPD Interpretive Dept. Chief, several "loaner" copies are available in the Little Farm Office for use by group leaders when they take children or adults through the Little Farm.

Seasons Greetings to members and friends from the Park Council board of directors and the staff of Park Council News.

EBRPD WANTS EAGLE BACK

Whoever stole the stuffed golden eagle with the five-foot wing spread from the Sunol Valley Regional Park old green barn had better see that it is returned--on a "no questions asked" basis ---or they may be in trouble with Uncle Sam. That's the word from Chris Nelson, EBRPD Chief of Interpretive Services, who pointed out that illegal possession of a golden eagle, a protected species, is punishable by a maximum penalty of $500, or a year in jail, or both. And it doesn't matter whether the eagle is alive, or dead, or stuffed. Even the Park District had to obtain a federal permit to exhibit the bird, a favorite of the youngsters in the nature classes. Nelson and EBRPD Ranger Larry Vierra said four juveniles ranging in age from 14 to 16 are suspects in the theft.

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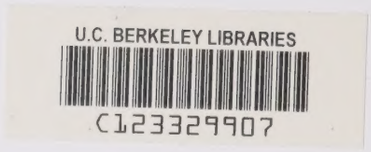

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